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THURSDAY DECEMBER 1ST, 2016

Christmas Cheer at Cadoxton & Cardiff Road - PAGES 24-28

Rhoose & St Athan for a cosy village Christmas - PAGES 30-31

In and around Bridgend in the run up to Christmas - PAGES 33-35

Bridgend out to break 'elf-conga' world record

A full elf and safety audit will be carried out before the attempt at the world record on Saturday, December 10!

'LITTLE helpers' are invited along to the annual Elfsteddfod in Bridgend town centre on Saturday, December 10 – for an attempt at the 'elf-conga' world record.

Organised by the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), the fun event will take place on Adare Street from 1pm onwards and will also feature elf workshops, face painting, a chance to stand inside a giant Christmas bauble, and an appearance from 'Bruce Airhead', who found fame on *Britain's Got Talent*!

Everyone is asked to come to the Elfsteddfod dressed in a red or green jumper, if possible, and the first 1,000 elves will be given a free hat.

Santa's Grotto will be open in Carnegie House, on Wyndham Street on December 3, 10 and 17, from 10am to 4pm. A visit to the grotto costs £5 per child and includes an opportunity to take a photo plus a choice of gift. Anyone wishing to boost their elf-esteem, and staff from the National Elf Service are especially invited.

All proceeds will be distributed to local charities by the Bridgend Lions Club, and grotto visits can be pre-booked at *www.carnegie house.co.uk*

Shoppers are also being reminded that they can park for free after 10am on weekends in council-run pay and display car parks, including the new Rhiw multi-storey in Bridgend, throughout December.

Free weekend parking will be offered in Bridgend town centre in Brackla Street, Tremains Road, The Bowls Hall, Tondu Road and Cheapside. The John Street and Hillsboro Place car parks in Porthcawl town centre will also be free, but charges will still apply at Rest Bay, the Halo car park at Bridgend Life Centre, and Bryngarw House and Country Park.

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PENCOED DRAGON SHOOTING BEGINS FOR US TV SERIES

FILMING is under way at Dragon Studios, Pencoed, on the biggest budget US TV production ever to be shot in Wales.

Will, a high end drama series based on the early life of William Shakespeare, is to be filmed in Wales for broadcast in the US, and will have the largest budget and highest spend of any production shot in Wales to date.

It is the latest US production to be brought to Wales and follows other high profile productions such as *Da Vinci's Demons*, *The Bastard Executioner* and *The Collection*.

Backed by finance from the Welsh Government, it is anticipated that the production will generate £18m spend into the local economy.

The first series of nine episodes has been commissioned following the success of an initial pilot programme that was filmed in London.

Support from the Welsh Government means that a significant proportion of filming and production will be undertaken in Wales.

Welcoming the news economy Cabinet Secretary Ken Skates AM described it as a great 'win' and a huge boost for the creative industries sector in Wales: "This really does tick all the boxes. It has the highest budget of any production filmed in Wales to date and the largest local spend ever attracted to Wales which is great news for the Welsh film and TV sector.

"It supports our sector strategy to attract high end drama to Wales with a specific focus on the lucrative US market and with the probability of repeat series. I am delighted that Welsh Government support has secured this investment for Wales."

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'Lack of money? what a joke!'

HERE we go again – the Labour Party, as the leaders of the Welsh Assembly – is asking the London Parliament for more money for Wales, as they cannot carry out the programme for so many Welsh needs.

At the same time, they continue with cycle paths through an industrial estate on the outskirts of Bridgend costing £200,000 from Bridgend CBC and for new maps of cycle and pedestrian walks.

Further, it is strongly rumoured that the pedestrian areas of Bridgend and Porthcawl are to be returned to vehicle roads.

What was the cost when they were pedestrianised – £4, 6, 8 million, and probably now a similar sum?

Lack of money? What a joke!

Barry Hoey,
Brocastle.

...NOT A FAIR COP

ON Monday, November 21, I was standing at the bus stop on the Eglwys Brewis road at about 4.30pm; the drains were blocked and the road was a small lake.

Motorists edged slowly through it – not least because they could clearly see me at the bus stop, even though I was standing well back from the kerb.

All, that is, except for a police car which made no effort to slow down and sent up a five-foot wall of water that reached six feet over the kerb and drenched me from head to toe, even though I retreated to the max when I saw that they were not going to slow down.

They did not have a siren on and there was no sign that they were on their way to an emergency. Either they didn't look, or didn't care – or perhaps both.

This was witnessed by a dog-walker who could not believe the driver's recklessness.

The only plus from this incident was a kind man who stopped and offered me a lift to my destination – many thanks to him for his kindness.

As for the South Wales Police – no excuse...At best it shows an unacceptable disregard for pedestrians.

(Name and address supplied).

Christmas appeal for needy children

THE Big Wrap provides presents to disadvantaged children and young people (0-19) in the Vale who are at risk of receiving nothing or very little for Christmas.

Last year, over 300 children were supported and this year's appeal has already received over 200 referrals.

Working in partnership with local agencies, the Big Wrap is run by volunteers and relies entirely on donations from local organisations and members of the public. Presents will be given to children and young people identified by frontline care professionals, including social workers, local charities and churches.

"We are so grateful to members of the public for their generous support. Every present we receive will be given to a child or young person who might otherwise receive nothing or very little for Christmas."

The Big Wrap is happy to receive toys (which should be new and unwrapped) and gift tokens or financial donations. Donations can be taken to the Vale Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry any time up until December 16. Cheques (made payable to The Big Wrap can be sent to Coastlands Church, Tennyson Road, Colcot, Barry (CF62 9TN).

Susan Lloyd-Selby,
Big Wrap coordinator.

Young knights of the road

MY sincere heartfelt thanks to the two Knights of the Road who helped me during the recent heavy rainfall.

On my way from St Athan to Rhoose on the Monday afternoon, after getting through a few flooded patches of road, my car gave up on the last one and stopped in the middle of a flooded lane.

Within minutes, a young man kindly offered to push my car out of the water and onto the side of the lane. Then another young man in a van drove alongside and offered to have a look to see what could be done.

In next to no time, he assessed all was well and on a turn of the ignition, we were up and running.

What fabulous young men. I was, and am, so grateful for their help in a rather scary situation.

Sincere thanks for your kindness and time, which was priceless.

Patricia Rauch,
St Athan.

Maesteg Rotarians respond to flood donations appeal

AFTER the devastating floods in Maesteg on Saturday night, November 19, an appeal went out for clothes, blankets and household items for those affected.

The Rotary Club of Maesteg voted to make a donation to the cause and decided to purchase cleaning materials to help with the clean-up.

Rotarians Talfyn Harries and Viv Gage shopped for the items in Tesco, who have themselves made a donation to the clean-up.

If anyone would like to donate, items are being accepted at Garth church, Maesteg.

SEND US YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS!
See below for the full contact details

COMBATING SOCIAL ISOLATION
COMMUNITY HUB AT THE THE MAESTEG LIBRARY WINS PUBLIC PLAUDITS

A PARTNERSHIP between Maesteg Library and Cwm Calon, a community hub run by Bridgend County Borough Council, which is committed to enhancing the lives of adults with learning disabilities and older people, has been praised by those who attend its joint programme of events and activities.

Lorna and Ruth from Maesteg Library visit the centre, based in Castle Street, every Tuesday afternoon to run a popular series of craft workshops.

One regular participant, Amy, said: "I enjoy the craft workshop, especially card making and the Christmas decorations workshop.

"It was fun and I got to take Christmas tags home with me."

Her friend, Diana, added that "not only do I enjoy the crafts workshop but Lorna and Ruth kindly bring talking books for me every week because it's difficult for me to visit the library".

As well as the craft sessions, the library staff have also organised coffee mornings, flower making, cake decorating activities and Christmas events involving local school children entertaining the service users with festive songs and carols.

The older people in particular enjoy looking through photographs and reminiscing, something which has reported health benefits.

Richard Hughes, chief executive of Awen Cultural Trust which runs Maesteg Library, said: "Research shows that activities provided within a community hub can bring huge wellbeing and quality of life benefits to those people who are particularly vulnerable to social isolation and loneliness.

As a charity dedicated to making people's lives better, we are delighted that Awen's library staff can work closely with Cwm Calon staff in delivering these activities and events at the centre.

"While we know that libraries play a significant role in the lives of older people and adults with learning disabilities, we also recognise that many of them face barriers, which mean they are unable to visit their local library building.

"As part of our partnership with Bridgend CBC, we are committed to ensuring that everyone has access to the invaluable learning and social resource offered by libraries, and so welcome opportunities, such as the Cwm Calon partnership, to take our services out into the community."

Coun Phil White, cabinet member for adult social care and health and wellbeing, added: "Cwm Calon forms a vital link in the care of vulnerable adults.

"I am really pleased to see that Bridgend County Borough Council's innovative partnership with Awen Cultural Trust is continuing to deliver benefits for users of the centre."

Young are asked for views on BCBC's budget plans

As BCBC's public consultation over its future budget plans reaches its conclusion, the county borough's youngest citizens are being asked to have their say too.

Running alongside the 'Shaping Bridgend's Future' online survey at *www.bridgend.gov.uk/future*, a simplified version has also been produced which is aimed at school-aged youngsters.

Both surveys will be open until December 1, inviting local people to comment on several proposals that the council is putting forward to help make significant financial savings and deal with the challenges of diminishing local government resources.

Since 2012, the council has already covered a funding shortfall of more than £30m, but over the next four years the council expects to have to make further savings of £37m.

Among the proposals for how the local authority can continue to deliver important services while making substantial savings is an idea to save half a million pounds in energy costs by moving to a new street lighting system.

Further proposals include carrying out more road repairs during the daytime, and reviewing how parks and playing fields are supported.

Coun Hywel Williams, Deputy Leader, said: "Bridgend County Borough Council provides hundreds of different services for around 140,000 residents living across the county borough. The population is increasing and living longer while ongoing funding shortfalls mean that we expect to have to make further budget savings of around £37m by 2020.

"This is a hugely significant amount of money, but we have already achieved recurrent savings of more than £30m by disposing of surplus council assets, reducing some services and setting up partnerships to run our arts and culture venues, libraries, leisure centres and swimming pools.

"Now we want to try and reflect as many residents' wishes as possible as we determine where we are going to focus our spending in 2017-18, and how we are going to cover the remaining £37m funding shortfall."

Bridgend MP supports the campaign to end violence against women

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon has pledged to support an upcoming Bill which would require the UK Government to ratify the Istanbul Convention committing the Government to provide a better framework for addressing violence against women and girls.

The Istanbul Convention requires governments to take measures to prevent violence against women, protect women experiencing violence, and prosecute perpetrators.

"The Bill has cross-party support and if it becomes law, would see the UK make a much-needed and significant commitment to ending gender-based violence and taking the next steps in securing a safe future for women and girls. Two women in England and Wales are killed every week by a current or former male partner," she commented.

"I want to end violence against women and girls in the UK. I worked in this field before becoming an MP and I know this convention must be ratified in order to prevent violence against women, protect women experiencing violence and prosecute perpetrators.

"I, therefore, call on the UK Government to ratify the convention and would urge other MPs to do the same."

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL DECEMBER 8)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
01 Thur	07.17	9.6	19.31	9.6
02 Fri	07.48	9.5	20.03	9.4
03 Sat	08.22	9.3	20.38	9.2
04 Sun	08.58	9.1	21.16	9.0
05 Mon	09.37	8.8	21.59	8.7
06 Tues	10.27	8.5	22.51	8.3
07 Wed	11.26	8.3	23.57	8.2
08 Thur			12.34	8.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Brynteg school pupils stage a sell-out show of *Annie*!

BETWEEN October 19-21, Brynteg's performing arts department and a dedicated cast of over 120 pupils returned for their fourth consecutive show at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl – and a sell-out run of 'Annie'.

For three nights, audiences were transported to the world of 1930s New York, to the story of orphan Annie, and her quest to find her parents.

The journey took Annie from the evil Miss Hannigan to her adoption by Oliver Warbucks.

Joining them on stage, an exceptional ensemble of over 30 pupils from years 9-13 and a chorus over almost 80 pupils from years 8 and 9.

"All the audiences thoroughly enjoyed the performances, judged by many to be of West End standard! We would like to thank all staff and pupils involved on and off stage for their help in making 'Annie' our most successful production yet, said a school spokeswoman."

Helping autistic people to 'follow their dreams' – *on a computer*

BRIDGEND Lions' president, John Paton, is pictured presenting a cheque for £400 to Leanne Toy, organiser/chair of the Follow Your Dreams Technology Club, at Pyle Life Centre.

Accompanying the president were members of his welfare committee, chairperson John Craxton and Bryant Thomas.

Leanne founded the club in June 2015 and it has gone from strength to strength.

The club caters for children with Autism, ADHD, anxiety problems – with great emphasis on families – making sure that no-one is excluded.

Weekly activities include art work, computer and game sessions, regular gym workouts, plus a new trampoline class.

Marie Curie appeals for more local volunteers

LOCAL volunteers are being sought as Marie Curie collection box coordinators in Bridgend.

The charity helps people living with a terminal illness: "We also offer care for a shorter period of time and we are expanding the services we offer throughout Bridgend," explained Hannah Leckie, Community Fundraiser.

"Looking after the collection tins is a really effective way to help support local Marie Curie nurses.

"We've got tins out in shops and pubs but no one to look after them, so they aren't raising as much money as they could, which in turn affects the amount of Marie Curie nursing we can provide. We're looking for people who can go around sites in their local area once every three months, to replace the full tin with an empty one: then count and bank the money raised.

"We are particularly interested in getting people to help us in the CF32, CF34 and CF35 postcodes."

If interested contact Hannah Leckie, on 01554 759071, or email Hannah.Leckie@mariecurie.org.uk.

December PACT meetings

NEWCASTLE PACT at Westward Community Centre, on Tuesday, December, 5 at 7.15 pm.

CEFN GLAS, LLANGEWYDD and BRYNHYFRYD PACT at Westward Community Centre, on December 5 at 7.15pm.

BRYNTIRION, LALESTON and MERTHYR MAWR PACT at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston on December 8 at 7pm

MORFA WILDMILL PACT at the Community Life Centre, The Precinct, Wildmill on December 8, at 6pm.

Admiral award apprenticeships

CARDIFF and Vale College has joined forces with Cardiff employer Admiral on an apprenticeship programme that will develop the skills required to progress in the financial sector.

It will offer people the opportunity to earn while they learn with the Cardiff-based insurance specialist and build skills needed for a career in the finance and professional sector while gaining necessary qualifications.

FROM SOUTH WALES TO THE WEST END...

Drama performance pupils pictured in the West End.

ON November 20, seven drama performance troupe students performed at one of London's most prestigious venues, Her Majesty's Theatre in the heart of the West End.

Congratulations to Tom Johnson, Cerys May, Eve Bird, Catherine Harrison, Robyn Edwards, Mali Ford and Patrick Sheppard, along with past student Hannah Clarke.

They all attend Stagecoach Performing Arts School, either in Bridgend or Cowbridge, where they have shown exceptional commitment to their Stagecoach training, and rehearsed hard as a 'Performance Troupe' for this West End opportunity.

Their fantastic performance, showcasing the career of Michael Jackson, certainly wowed the West End crowd, and they received huge applause from the packed auditorium as they 'closed the show'! We are very proud of them all.

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FAIR BOOST FOR THE PoW HEART PATIENTS

VISITORS who enjoyed all the fun of the fair, have helped provide heart patients at Princess of Wales Hospital with a major boost.

The St Mary Hill Fair, held on the common between Pencoed and Heol y Cyw every August, is a long-standing attraction and every year the group which organises it chooses charities to support.

This year the Coity Wallia Board of Conservators selected the regional Cardiology Day Unit at the hospital after it was suggested by a patient who had diagnostic angiography there, and was so impressed with the experience.

Representatives from the board visited the unit to hand over a cheque for £1,000 to consultant cardiologist and clinical lead Martyn Richards.

Dr Richards said: "The day unit is a valuable resource and sees over a thousand patients a year for various cardiac procedures, diagnostic tests and day-case treatments.

"We were pleased to hear that the patient's experience was a positive one and are very grateful for this donation."

Pictured (from left) are fair organiser Lyn Wood, board member Clive Davies, board chairman Gareth Thomas, sister Rosie Humphries, staff nurse Tanya Banks and Dr Richards. Board member John McCarthy was unable to attend.

Living Memory project at town museum wins CWGC award

ON November 18, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) hosted an event at Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, to mark the end of the centenary of the 141 days of the Battle of the Somme.

Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, who is the CWGC's vice chairman, was joined by a host of community groups who took part in the Commission's Living Memory project, which encouraged people to rediscover their war heritage and remember those who gave their lives.

In partnership with the Big Ideas Company, and funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the aim of the project was to raise awareness of the 300,000 war graves and memorials in the UK; and encourage community groups to discover, explore and remember their First and Second World War heritage.

The challenge set was to mark the 141 days of the Somme campaign to encourage 141 groups to hold 141 events. Consequently, an amazing 260 groups held events, of which 19 were presented with CWGC Champion certificates in recognition of their contribution to the project.

Paul Joseph, chair of Porthcawl Museum, on behalf of the museum, received this prestigious award for the service held on August 24 to commemorate the centenary of the death of Private John Campbell, 5th Cameron Highlanders, who is buried in St John's Church, Newton, Porthcawl.

Private Campbell had been wounded at the Somme, transferred to Cardiff's third general hospital and eventually to The Rest Home, Porthcawl to convalesce. Tragically, the day before he was found drowned, he had been told that he was fit to return to the Somme battlefield. Studying the inquest, you cannot fail to note the tragic effect of shellshock.

Colin Kerr, director of External Relations for CWGC, said that the Living Memory project has proved that you don't need to travel to the Western Front to pay your respects. We must make sure that those who died during both World Wars, and are buried or commemorated in the UK, are never forgotten.

Porthcawl Museum would like to thank the Porthcawl branch of the Royal British Legion for their support in August; and member Mrs Elaine Newman who has liaised with the CWGC and arranged for their attendance at our Living Memory project.

CERI JOSEPH

Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence (left) congratulates Paul Joseph.

Glamorgan Holiday Hotel 'contents sale'

THERE will be a two-day sale of the complete contents of the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel, Porthcawl, on December 1 and 2, from 10am-4pm.

All goods are to be removed by 5pm on December 2, 2016. . Everything must go.

For further information, see www.cartrefi.org.

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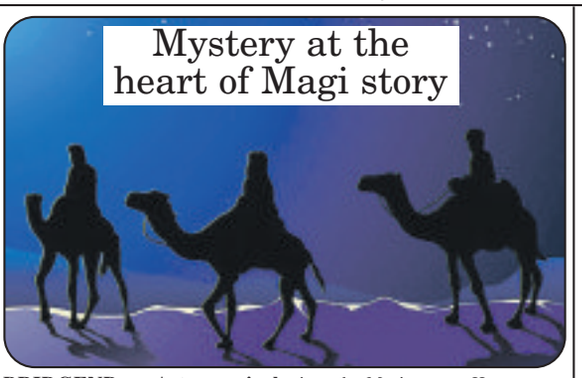
Mystery at the heart of Magi story



BRIDGEND Astronomical Society meets at 7.30pm on the second Friday of each month at Pyle church hall, where guest speakers from local academia give talks on various astronomical subjects.

Marc Delaney, of Cardiff Astronomical Society, will be discussing the moons of our solar system on the evening of January 13, why not make it a New Year's resolution and come along?

As the Christmas season approaches, the Bible story of the birth of Jesus will be retold anew. One particular event stands out in the Christmas story – the Star of Bethlehem which led the three wise men on their pilgrimage … but what was it? Do any astronomical events match the description in the scriptures?

A supernova explosion occurs when a massive star nears the end of its life and can no longer support hydrogen-helium fusion. A supernova is an exotic event that would have appeared as a new star and surely would have given the Magi pause. However, no supernova remnant has been identified as a prime suspect to be the Star of Bethlehem.

A second possibility is a planetary conjunction. Such pairings are not at all rare and a close conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn did occur in the year 7 BC.

Most compelling, however, is the idea that the star the Magi followed was in fact a comet. A truly dramatic comet can leave a long, sweeping tail and can even be visible in broad daylight. One can imagine the Magi breaking camp at dawn as a spectacular comet rises in the east before sunrise. One problem with the comet hypothesis, however, is that in those days, they were usually seen as harbingers of doom.

Finally, we are left with an unexplainable phenomenon. Perhaps the true story will never be known and the Star of Bethlehem as told in the Book of Matthew will remain either an embellishment surrounding the Christmas story, or a true miracle that defies scientific explanation.

Report by Norman Lloyd

Advent coffee morning raises funds for St Illtyd's Church

Bargains galore at St Illtyd's Church Advent coffee morning.

FATHER David Lloyd, vicar of St Illtyd's Church in Newcastle, Bridgend, said he was "overjoyed" at the success of the Advent coffee morning held at the church on Saturday, November 26.

He said: "More than 70 people – regular churchgoers and others from within the parish – came along, helping to raise, so far, £720.

"To all who worked so hard to make it a success, and to all those who came, your generosity of time, home-made cakes and raffle prizes is greatly appreciated."

Aside from Sunday services at 10.30am, the next major event is the Gaudete Sunday carol service by candlelight at the church on December 11 at 4.30pm.

Fr David said: "All, of course, are welcome, and there are free festive refreshments afterwards."

St Illtyd's Church is on Newcastle Hill, Bridgend, CF31 4EZ, and for more information, visit facebook.com/saintilltydbridgend.

ST CEIN'S LAUNCHES APPEAL

Llangeinor's unique link with early church in desperate need of £400,000 repairs

THE ancient church of St Cein Wyr (*Cein the virgin, or fair*) lies on a hilltop site above the Garw and Ogmore valleys at Llangeinor.

Cain's name appears in many forms. The Latin Life of St Cain, dating from several hundred years after her death, tells us that she was a daughter of Brychan who refused to marry the many noblemen who requested her hand, and instead 'consecrated her virginity to the Lord by a perpetual vow'.

After Cain had spent many years in Cornwall, the Life tells us, St Cadog met his aunt while visiting St Michael's Mount and wanted her to return to Wales with him. Following a warning by an angel, she did eventually return, and established herself on a hilltop where she created an oratory and a holy well.

While at Llangeinor, the time of her death was revealed in a dream, and she also saw a vision of two angels who took off her hairshirt and dressed her in a cloak woven with gold.

She was prepared for death, and died on October 8, circa AD 510. St Ceinwr's Church is considered the most likely location of the grave and holy well of the saint, due to its proximity to Cornwall and her nephew, Cadog, whose church is close by in the Vale of Glamorgan

Worship has been given at the site of the church for over 1,500 years with the present church dating to the 12th century sometime around 1139. The church, comprising nave, chancel and embattled west tower with south porch and chapel, was established 1180. Although restored in the 15th century and also comprehensively restored in 1894, the church is thought to retain much of its medieval fabric.

The village of Llangeinor also has great significance as the birth place of Rev Dr Richard Price whose farmhouse, Tynton, stands just below the church. His name became identified with the cause of American Independence. Benjamin Franklin was a close friend. In 1778, he was invited by the Continental Congress to go to America and assist in the financial administration of the states, an offer he turned down.

In 1781 he, solely with George Washington, received the degree of Doctor of Laws from Yale College and is attributed with influencing the Bill of Rights and American Constitution.

The church is now in urgent need of repairs. Large cracks have formed in the tower, letting water into the building, and causing further damage to the interior.

The parish has made great progress with many repairs but cannot bear the great cost of making the church fabric sound again. Estimates of £400,000 have been given and full costings are presently taking place.

If you are able to help with any donation, large or small, it would be of great help in securing the future of St Cein's church for the centuries to come.

Please visit the funding page at: ***www.gofundme.com/StCeins.***

REV ROGER PITMAN

FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE WINS AWARD

Members of the childcare team are pictured with the award.

BCBC has won an award in recognition for high standards provided by its family information service.

The free service lets parents access a wide range of useful information, from classes and groups for new mums and dads, to childcare provision, and those all-important summer activities that help keep children entertained and active during holiday times.

The council has been rewarded for its efforts by becoming the first local authority in Wales to receive the revised Families' First Quality Award from the Family and Childcare Trust.

The council's cabinet member for children's social services and equalities, Coun Hailey Townsend, said: "We are proud that the family information service, which is provided by our childcare team, has been rated so highly. It is always on hand to provide local families with a wealth of useful information about the services and support that is available for them locally.

"As well as being extremely exciting, becoming a arent can also be an overwhelming time, so it is vitally important for us to make it as easy as possible for parents to access the services they need."

Junior school choir brought festive touch

THE Llangewydd Junior School Choir, conducted by Mrs Bethan Hatch-Walker, entertained at the recent charity coffee morning and brought a real Christmas feeling to the morning at the Best Western Heronston Hotel.

This event is the start to the Christmas functions, where every chosen charity for the 2016/2017 year takes a place to show how they can help locally and encourage support. The charities are: Kidney Wales Foundation for the Renal Department at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Crossroad Care, and Heronsbridge School Summer School project, all in the county borough of Bridgend.

We thank stalls from Ysgol Bryn Castell, Body Shop, Heronsbridge School and several others for their faithful continued support. A warm welcome was received from the management and staff at the Heronston Hotel with everyone well looked after and the event was hosted by county councillor Cherie Jones, who encouraged everyone to spend generously. The charity benefited by £400.

The next event is 'A Nearly Christmas Dinner' and the presentations to the 2015/2016 local charities during the evening will be performed by former Mayor Coun Richard Young. The special guest is Mr Frank Hennessy, well known broadcaster and presenter. The evening starts at 6.30pm for 7pm at the Best Western Heronston Hotel and tickets are £25.

'Don't sleep with window open'

BRIDGEND county borough's over-65s can now find out whether it is safe to sleep with their window open in the winter – and if a warm bedroom is bad for their health.

The answers to these and other questions are included in a new leaflet from Age Cymru called 'Don't leave yourself in the cold this winter.'

"It's a common myth that sleeping with your window open during the winter is good for you, as is the idea that a warm bedroom is bad for your health", says Age Cymru's Spread the Warmth coordinator, Angharad Phillips.

"There are many common myths out there about the winter which are potentially putting older people's health at risk.

'Don't leave yourself out in the cold' is available from Age Cymru, 37 John Street, Porthcawl, CF36 3AP.

Call Age Cymru's free, confidential and impartial advice service, Age Cymru Advice by calling freephone 08000 223 444.

Cor Bro Ogwr gets 'new look'

A NEW conductor and a new variation on the choir's annual Christmas concert! Musical Director Rosie Howarth will be bringing her enthusiasm and energy to conducting this concert featuring Benjamin Britten's 'Ceremony Of Carols', Daniel Pinkham's 'Christmas Cantata' and Will Todd's 'Three more Jazz Carols' from his larger work, *Christmas in Blue*.

The last two pieces are contemporary works with a jazz twist; accompanied by a brass quintet, our own accompanist, Glenn Crooks, flexing his jazzy piano fingers, and Britten by a local harpist, Angharad Edwards.

Our two accompanying sopranos are both from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama; Grace Wyatt and Catrin Raymond, who may well be singing some solos Welsh items. Rosie is an MA graduate in choral conducting from the RWCMD, conducts a number of other choirs, and sings in the BBC National Chorus of Wales.

She uses her beautiful soprano voice to great effect in rehearsals, as well as her enthusiasm for dramatic armography. Exciting rehearsals this term!

As usual, the concert will take place in All Saints Church, Porthcawl, on Saturday, December 10 at 7pm. Tickets £10 at the door or call 01656 653326.

DS

HUGH | JAMES

FREE legal clinics

Visit a FREE, no obligation, drop in session to discuss whether you are eligible for compensation.

Katie will be in your local area to talk about:

- missed fractures
- birth injuries, including cerebral palsy
- mis-diagnosis, including cancer
- surgical complications
- hospital complaints; or
- any other negligence claim

Bridgend
05 December 2016 - 10am to 4pm
Bridgend Ravens Rugby Club, Tondu Road, Bridgend
CF31 4JE

No appointment is necessary. If you are unable to attend, we can also arrange free telephone consultations and home visits.

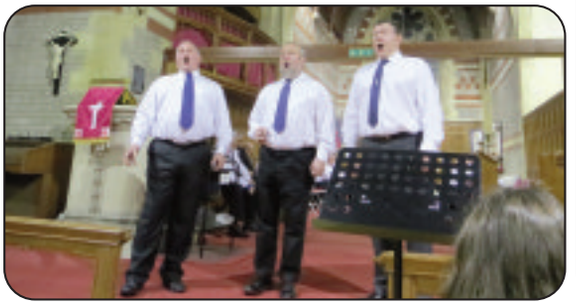
Contact Katie McCraith on:
01656 838 543
katie.mccraith@hughjames.com
hughjames.com/medneg

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS...

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Trio Canig, L to R: Geraint Anwyl, Dafydd Jones and Merfyn Owen – singing with gusto.

THE SOUTH WALES MALE CHOIR BOIS GOETRE HEN.

Aberkenfig concert

I HAD the pleasure of attending the concert at the church last Friday evening, by two recently-formed male choirs in Wales.

The south Wales choir is Bois Goetre Hen, and the other from north Wales was Meibion Goronwy.

The church was full and the compere for the evening was Welsh Assembly member Rhun Ap Iorwerth, who gave a different concept to the announcements.

The concert started with Meibion Goronwy singing the spiritual 'My Lord What a Morning' followed by the Trio Canig – Geraint Anwyl, Dafydd Jones and Merfyn Owen, who also came from north Wales singing 'Ave Maria' in Welsh.

The first half of the concert ended with Bois Goetre Hen member Richard A Howells singing a solo part in 'Something Inside So Strong'.

The second half of the concert started with Bois Goetre Hen singing a South African hymn 'Siyamba', followed by Trio Canig with 'He touched me'.

The concert ended with both choirs joined together singing 'Calon Lan', and of course everyone standing for the Welsh national anthem 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau'.

The concert was held to raise funds for the Prostate Cancer Research charity, and I am pleased to announce it raised £500.

Bois Goetre Hen will be staging another concert at St Michael & All Angels Church in Maesteg on Tuesday, December 20 to raise funds for the above charity. It rehearses at Tondu Cricket Club on Sunday from 7pm to 9pm and Tuesday 6pm to 8pm, and welcomes visitors and new members.

Brynmenyn Primary

MRS HC Dale is pleased to announce that the schoolchildren will be performing in a number of Christmas concerts and parents and carers are welcome.

The nursery and class 1 will be staging 'A Little Nativity' on December 12 – 13 at 9.15am. Classes 2 and 3 stage 'A Present For the Baby' December 8 – 12 at 2pm; classes 4, 5 and 6 stage 'Rock Around the Flock' at Coleg Cymunedoly Dderwen on December 1 at 5pm.

Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen

THE students at the school, which last year raised the sum of £6,133 for BBC *Children in Need*, exceeded it by raising £6,200, and have now broken the record-breaking fundraising total for charity.

It is a Special Measures school, and this year broke last year's GCSE results record with pupils achieving a 93 per cent pass rate in the top grades A to C. Well done to everyone involved.

News in Brief

BRACKLA Community Chorus will be presenting a Christmas concert with its guests, children from Oldcastle primary school, at Brackla Community Centre on Friday, December 9. The doors open at 6.45pm, concert starting at 7.15pm. Tickets available at the door for £4.

Llangynwyd Community Association, a registered charity, is holding a winter fair at Llangynwyd village hall on December 3 from 2pm to 5pm. There will be a number of stalls selling crafts, refreshments and raffles etc.

A Christmas tea party is being held at Brackla Community Centre for elderly residents on December 7 from 3pm to 5pm; it is a free event with refreshments and entertainment provided. If anyone would like to attend, contact Anne or Phil on 01656 767072; Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm.

The pantomime *Beauty And the Beast* is being held at Brackla Community Centre on Friday, December 16; doors open 6pm, tickets £5 adults, £2 children.

On Saturday, December 3 there is a Christmas tree festival and bazaar at Wesley Methodist Church, Tondu from 10am to 3pm.

On Sunday, December 4 there will be an all-age Nativity and parade service at 10.30am.

On Wednesday, December 7 there will be a carol service with the choir from Tondu Primary School leading the singing, at 6pm.

Bridgend Male Choir will hold its annual friendship concert with St Mary's Roman Catholic School at St Mary's Catholic Church on Friday, December 2 at 7pm. The concert will support church funds, and tickets are available at the door.

Tynyrheol Primary

THE school is holding class 2 and 3 Christmas concerts in the Llangeinor school hall at 1.30pm on December 5 – 6, with class 1 Nativity being held on December 7 at 9.30am.

The following pupils have gained star awards for the week ending November 25: nursery – Jacob Thomas for trying his best to complete the tasks that he has been given. Reception – Bella McLaughlan for trying hard to make her writing neat. Year 1 – Rohan Davies for fantastic work using money. Year 2 – Asher-James Wilson for fantastic work using money. Year 3 – Cale Taylor for super independent work adding and subtracting multiples of 10. Year 4 – Layla Matthews for trying so hard at writing an independent diary. Year 5 – Logan McCormick for being so helpful in class and tidying the yard. Year 6 – Gethin Lewis for great effort and motivation when encountering tricky fractions!

Jo Blackman the headteacher would like to thank Mrs Daisy Standing for organising the school's Children In Need day, sorting raffle prizes and spending the day selling the toys with Mrs Cally Thomas. The school raised a fantastic £325.07, which was matched by Lloyds Bank to make a total of £650.14 for this worthwhile cause.

Festive concert

OGMORE Valley Male Voice Choir is heavily involved with the local community and on Friday, December 2 it is staging a Christmas concert at Llansantffraid church, Sarn at 7pm, to raise money for church funds. Tickets available at the door.

On December 9 – 10 it will be singing at Nantymoel top club to raise money for two different charities.

The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings and always welcomes new members and guests. For more information, telephone the secretary John Jones on 01656 841429.

Tondu Primary

THE Parent Teachers' Association is holding a Christmas fair on December 2 at 2pm in the school hall on the Meadow Street site.

The school choir will entertain parents and carers with Christmas carols; Father Christmas will be there to greet the youngsters, and there will be plenty of stalls for both children and parents.

Year-6 will run a toy stall and would like all the children to clear out their toys ready for Christmas. Please note – they cannot accept books this year.

Trust events

WELSH Wildlife Trust based at Parc Slip nature reserve, Fountain Road, Tondu (CF32 0EH) is organising several events at its visitor centre.

It would welcome help from people joining its Friends of Park Slip group to assist in looking after the reserve on Saturday, December 3 with activities ranging from path clearance to bug hotel building.

On Fridays, December 2 and 9, the conservation team would appreciate the assistance of volunteers to improve the habitat for lapwing, a wading bird which is in decline. Helpers should wear wellington boots and clothing suitable for helping in a dirty environment.

On Monday, December 5 there is a members' evening at 7.30pm, to which everyone is welcome; entry £1.

Harmony group

THE Harmony Ladies Choral Group is performing its Christmas charity concert at St David's church, Maesteg, doors open 6.30pm. The charity this year is Tenovus and mince pies are free.

Bridgend Choir (and friends) bring the house down!

IT WAS a huge privilege to attend Bridgend Male Choir's concert at the Sony Theatre, Bridgend College, a sorely-needed cultural resource in a town which has a paucity of theatre facilities.

The discipline and focus of the 78-strong choir was evident from their first appearance on stage under the direction of Mr Mansel Abrahams.

An understated 'Llanfair' allowed them to warm up and a heartfelt 'Yfory' was moving, the diction exemplary. 'This is the Moment', from the musical *Jekyll and Hyde* followed, was sung with fervour and passion. Once the *Sweet Charity* favourite 'The Rhythm of Life' commenced, it was clear the choir were enjoying themselves.

The accompanist, Ms Stephanie Bailey, was remarkably adept and accomplished, with Mr Scott Williams playing the primo part in this duet.

Congratulations to musical director Mr Ryan Wood for his energy and for his choice of programme with music from the very broad spectrum of male voice choir repertoire.

The Rock Choir with about 50 singers was expertly conducted by Ms Stephanie Bailey and the choreography was visually captivating as all members danced with conviction and energy. 'We Built This City', provided a rousing finale for the choir.

By their second set, the Bridgend Male Choir were ready and willing to dazzle us. 'Tell My Father', prefaced by an extract from the Gettysberg Address, narrated by Dr Peter Morgan, was a particular highlight. The audience favourite' You'll Never Walk Alone' was followed by 'Bui Doi' from *Miss Saigon,* with Mr Paul Carter the soloist.

The second half of the concert was a spirit-raising performance by Mike Doyle. Opening and closing with a musical number accompanied by his own four-piece band, he had the audience guffawing with laughter.

NAOMI A HITCHINGS

Bridgend Male Choir can next be seen at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Ewenny Road, Bridgend (CF31 3HS) on December 2 at the annual Friendship Concert. Tickets will be available at the door.

THANK YOU

THE Llantwit Major Events Group would like to say a very big 'thank you' to everyone who came to the Christmas market on November 25 and 26 for their generosity in purchasing raffle tickets.

We raised the grand total of £505.17 for two charities: The Eve Appeal – fighting ladies' gynaecological cancers, and Running With Nancy (cystic fibrosis).

The first prize of a Christmas hamper was won by Mr Thomas; second prize, a bottle of Prosecco, Ms Lobb; third prize of jewellery, Ms Price and the fourth prize – a hamper, Ms Phillips.

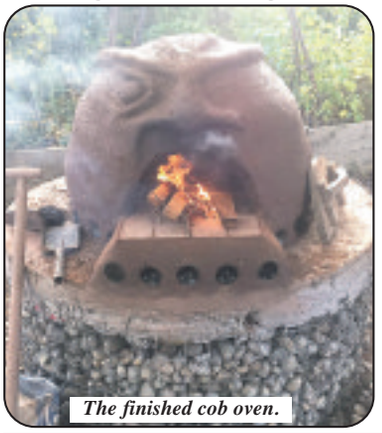
Thank you everyone.

Elizabeth Driver.

STEM sells the future to Oldcastle Primary School pupils

OLDCASTLE Primary School has recently completed a hugely successful STEM week: the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths week between November 7 and 11, provided children from the age of three to 11 years with a broad range of stimulating opportunities.

Throughout the week, children were treated to opportunities to explore STEM subjects beyond the constraints of the classroom. Children were excited to go on various educational trips throughout the week including a visit to Spectrum Technologies to learn about laser wire processing technology, Aberthaw Power Station to learn about the National Grid, Techniquest, and Viridor waste plant.



The finished cob oven.

As well as the external trips, children were treated to a whole host of exciting sessions in school. They were able to learn about the human brain, rock-pooling, nature reserves in the sand dunes, and how to make elephant's toothpaste!

The school also managed to secure some exciting sessions for parents outside class hours to develop an understanding of what the children were covering throughout the week. These allowed parents to learn computer coding with CGI and The Oracle, develop an understanding of our universe from Dr Mark Smith, a nuclear physicist and astronomy expert, and learn about the human brain from Dr Phil Morgan, a specialist in cognitive and biological psychology.

Headteacher Jeremy Thompson also ran a carpentry club with children and parents making pallet furniture for the school!

One of the highlights for the children was making a cob oven in the school garden area. With the expert assistance of the Fabulous Cob Oven Company, pupils learned about the age old way of baking by using the clay from beneath our feet mixed with sand and straw.

Once the oven was completed, children were able to bake bread and pizzas and understand how food is cooked.

"We were fortunate to have the support of many businesses, parents and staff throughout the hugely successful STEM week. Children loved the variety of sessions that were offered and it was satisfying to see children enjoying learning in a stimulating environment.

"I can't thank enough all those who gave up their time to make this such an enjoyable experience for the children. We are looking forward to developing our STEM week further for 2017, with the aim of inspiring, motivating and educating children," said Jeremy Thompson, headteacher of Oldcastle Primary School. **SP**

BRIDGEND LIONS HAND CHEQUE TO SAMARITANS

PRESIDENT John Paton of Bridgend Lions is pictured presenting a cheque for £500 to the Samaritans' Duty Officer 'Doug'.

Bridgend Lions have had a very busy year raising funds to support worthy causes and would like to pass on the club's thanks for the large number of book donations received throughout the year enabling such presentations to be made.

Also in the photo are John Craxton, welfare chairman, and committee members John Davies and Bryant Thomas.

Award for Porthcawl eco-businesswoman

Margaret Minhinnick (centre).

PORTHCAWL businesswoman Margaret Minhinnick received the Special Recognition Award, at the Cynnal Cymru annual awards ceremony in Cardiff on November 17 for her 30-plus years' work in environmentalism and sustainability.

It included her pathfinding work as joint creator of Friends of the Earth Cymru in 1984 and also as joint creator in 1997 of the charity Sustainable Wales, based in the seaside town.

She is director of Sustainable Wales, which incorporates the ethical/fair trade shop, SUSSED in Porthcawl.

She commented: "This award is important to me because it is recognition by my peers. The world was a far different place in 1980, when I helped begin Porthcawl Friends of the Earth. Somehow we coped without internet, smart phones and satnav.

"Sustainable Wales today remains dedicated to helping young people who take those things for granted. We are proud of our young workers who have gone on to careers in the green movement."

Results from Bridgend Bridge Club

THE results for recent events at Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

Wednesday, November 23: First, Gwynn Davies and Steve Burgoyne; second, Geoff Tinkler and John Henson; third, Tony Disley and John Evans. The winners on handicap were Geoff Tinkler and John Henson.

Thursday, November 24: First, Dilys Bowser and Glyn Williams; second: Maggie and Richard Ashpole; third: Stuart Davies and John Henson. The winners on handicap were Dilys Bowser and Glyn Williams.

Friday, November 25: First, Irene Wickham and Andy Robertshaw; second, Ann Fox and Bill Turner; third, Eileen Mahoney and Jeff Barnett. The winners on handicap were Eileen Mahoney and Jeff Barnett.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to begin at 7pm, so it helps if players arrive at least ten minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall there is a gentle bridge session. Master points are awarded, but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their Bridge.

Demo on how to make festive gifts

AFTER opening the recent meeting of Pen-y-Fai WI and dealing with the regular business and notices, Angela Smith introduced four ladies to instruct everyone on how to make interesting Christmas crafts.

Jean demonstrated how to make Christmas crackers out of Pringle boxes; Verna showed how to fold card into presentation boxes and how to fold napkins into pretty rose shapes; and Sue revealed how to construct tree decorations from all types of beads. Finally, Gloria combined empty spools and ribbon work to create Christmas trees.

The concentration and enthusiasm shown by the members was admirable, as many had been away for the weekend to London, which had been exhausting. A wonderful concert at the Royal Albert Hall had been followed on Sunday with a full day exploring Windsor castle, arriving back late in the evening.

Next month's meeting will be on December 19 and will be the members' Christmas party, with both food and live entertainment. **SD**

Who is planning to build what and where in Bridgend county?

Mrs Karen Davies **– Unit 3, Highwayman Units, Castle View, Bridgend –** Change of use from offices to veterinary physiotherapy/hydrotherapy unit (ground floor only) and offices to remain upstairs.

Mrs Mary E Jenkins – **89 Heol Las, North Cornelly** – Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of four linked dwellings.

Rest Bay Lifeguard Club – **Rear of Rest Bay cafe, Rest Bay, Porthcawl** – Variation of condition 1 of P/14/792/RLX to extend time period for the siting of a steel storage container until December 31, 2018.

Dunelm (Soft Furnishings) Ltd – **Dunelm, Parc Plaza, Waterton** – Extension of the mezzanine floorspace and external alterations.

Taylor Wimpey LRM Planning Ltd – **Land at Brackla Industrial Estate, Brackla** – Reserved matters to P/13/246/OUT for 9 dwellings at plots 49 – 57 and associated works.

Mr J Carter – **37 Parc Tyn y Waun, Maesteg** – Two-storey extension to provide kitchen, utility room, store and bedroom.

Mrs Anne Davies – **68 St Michael's Way, Brackla** – Tree next to property to be removed; partially-uprooted tree over garage to be removed; crown reduction to overgrown mixed species and severe leaning oak over garage to be removed.

Miss Laura Jones – **Block C, Unit 14, Parc y Bont, Aneurin Bevan Avenue, Brynmenyn Industrial Estate** – Approval of details for conditions 2 and 4 of P/16/557/FUL.

Valleys To Coast Housing Ltd – **5 Bradfield Road, Bridgend** – Wheelchair access ramp to front principal elevation and mobility scooter storage area.

Mrs Jacqueline Morgan – **36 Heol Pantyrawel, Pantyrawel** – Non-material amendment to P/16/617/FUL: resite main garage door to front elevation and pedestrian door installed to side elevation.

Mr and Mrs Rowlands – **21 Curlew Road, Porthcawl** – Single storey rear extension.

LRM Planning Ltd – **Land at Brackla Industrial Estate, Bridgend** – Discharge of conditions 6, 7, 8 and 11 of P/16/337/RES.

Miss Leesa Evans – **63 Mill View Estate, Garth, Maesteg** – Construction of single storey extension to the east side elevation to provide increased bathroom size, increased master bedroom size with new en-suite. Also entrance porch to front elevation.

Mrs Paula Williams – **7 Clos yr Hen Eglwys, South Cornelly** – Construct a single storey lean-to extension with roof lights to the rear elevation of the property. The extension will provide an open plan kitchen/dining/living space, existing kitchen will be divided into a ground floor family bathroom and utility room. Three roof lights to the rear pitch of the main roof.

The Rest (Porthcawl) Ltd – **The Rest Convalescent Home, Rest Bay, Porthcawl** – Non-material amendment to P/14/763/FUL to amend the wording of condition 6.

The Rest (Porthcawl) Ltd – **The Rest Convalescent Home, Rest Bay access road from West Drive, Porthcawl** – Discharge of conditions 3, 5, and 10 of P/14/763/FUL.

New Wave Installations Cardtronics UK Ltd – **Rontec Pendragon service station, Pyle Road, Pyle** – Retention of ATM to front elevation of shop.

New Wave Installations Cardtronics UK Ltd – **Rontec Pendragon service station, Pyle Road, Pyle** – Signage associated with ATM.

Mrs Angela Feltham – **74 Austin Avenue, Porthcawl** – Single storey rear extension.

Mrs Sian Lewis – **Land off Albany Road, Ponycymmer** – Proposed new dwelling affecting Footpath 80, Garw Valley.

Mr Ian Jones – **Bryngwyntog, Hendre Road, Coity** – Proposed replacement agricultural shed.

Robert Hitchins – **Land at Central Park, Western Avenue, Bridgend Industrial Estate** – Approval of details for conditions 9, 10 and 11 of P/16/356/FUL.

Bridgend County Borough Council – **Brynmenyn Primary School, East of Heol Yr Ysgol, Tondu** – Variation of conditions 14, 15, 17, 8 and 19 of P/16/578/BCB to be varied from pre-commencement to pre-occupation conditions.

Archdeacon John Lewis Primary School – **Archdeacon John Lewis Primary School, Brackla Way, Brackla** – Flagpole to fly the ECO School award flag.

Bridgend County Borough Council – **Land east of Heol yr Ysgol, Tondu** – Approval of details for Conditions 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12 and 13 of P/16/578/BCB

Dogs Trust – **Court Colman Boarding Kennels, Court Colman Farm, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend** – New single storey dog training facility building with associated external works and improvements to the site entrance, car parking and lighting.

Bridgend County Borough Council – **Land off North Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate** – Construct a pedestrian access to Brackla Park and Ride facility from Bridgend Industrial Estate, including platforms and a footbridge for Brackla Station. This constitutes Phase II of the Brackla Park and Ride Scheme.

Taylor Wimpey – **Land at Brackla Industrial Estate** – Approval of details for conditions 9, 12 and 14 of P/16/337/RES.

Taylor Wimpey – **Land at Brackla Industrial Estate** – Approval of details for conditions 2 and 5 of P/16/337/RES.

Robert Lloyd – **1 Chelsea Avenue, Cefn Glas, Bridgend** – Convert existing garage into living space. Build second storey above garage with windows as per plans.

Ward Jones (Bridgend) Ltd – **Land off Horsefair Road, Waterton Industrial Estate** – Approval of details for conditions 2, 3, 4, 13 and 14 of P/16/472/FUL.

Asda Stores Ltd – **Asda Stores Ltd, Castle Street, Maesteg** – Store car park signage: 16 signs in total, eight different types of sign.

'THEY HELP WITH EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES'

Daughter nominates her son's caring grandparents for charity's award

GRANDPARENTS John and Catherine Kellaway from Barry, are in line for an award that recognises the family support they give in caring for their eight-year-old grandson Sebastian, who has Cerebral Palsy.

Their daughter, Emma Sargent who lives in Penarth, nominated them in disability charity Contact a Family's first ever awards, to "help shine a spotlight on the often unseen but wonderful things grandparents do for their families."

Emma, who works for the Vale Council, said: "My parents help our son Sebastian with every aspect of our lives. My dad John and Sebastian are best friends. They go everywhere together – the beach, the fairground, the park – my dad really makes sure Sebastian doesn't miss out on anything.

"My mum, Catherine, can't do more for us – helping with washing, ironing and generally keeping our house in order.

"Both give me and my husband, Adam, respite every Friday when they look after Sebastian so we have some time together and relax – and even come on holiday with us to help us take care of him.

"Sebastian even spent four months living with them while our house was being adapted for him. This was one of the most stressful times we've had but with their help we got through it.

"My parents are both retired now and I don't know what I'd do without them. They are simply the best grandparents in the world and I can't thank them enough. That's why when I heard about Contact a Family's awards I just knew I'd have to nominate them and take the opportunity to let them know how amazing I think they are!"

The Contact a Family Awards were set up by the national charity that supports families with disabled children, to celebrate the countless things UK families do when caring for disabled children. The grandparents category is one of six award categories.

Amanda Batten, CEO of Contact a Family commented: "I was touched to learn about Emma's story and what a difference her parents make to her family. We really can't believe the number of wonderful nominations that families have submitted - it is going to be really difficult for our judges to shortlist the finalists.

"Contact a Family supports families with disabled children whatever the disability or condition. Our awards are a fantastic opportunity for families to give someone special in their family's life the recognition they truly deserve."

The winners will be announced in January.

ABOVE: John and Catherine Kellaway with Adam, Sebastian and Emma Sargent.

CARDIFF AND VALE COLLEGE WINS APPRENTICESHIP AWARD

RIGHT: CAVCA work based learning quality and data team leader Maureen Bielski, CAVC dean of quality improvement Michell Hiller Forster, Pearson marketing director for apprenticeships Claire Riddle, CAVC dean of work based learning Andy Whitcombe, Jon Culshaw, CAVC deputy principal Kay Martin, CAVC director of information services and IT Evan Davies.

THE Cardiff and Vale College has won a national award for the innovative way it delivers apprenticeship provision.

It beat off stiff competition from the rest of the UK's further education (FE) institutions to win the Association of Colleges Beacon Award for Promotion and Delivery of Apprenticeships, sponsored by Pearson. The awards celebrate best practice among UK FE colleges.

TY HAFAN HOSPICE LOTTERY RESULTS

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D959.

● **£2,000:** 936003.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £7,000, was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 308180, 276443, 711428, 283821, 599616, 490862, 801720, 535641, 603477, 665878, 973829, 277616, 423750, 284013, 729322, 309949, 699839, 202334,100400, 1142120, 005526.

● **£5:** 659162, 737793, 159807, 366711, 167089, 489558, 872756, 643304, 870435, 382219, 726702, 724414, 574915, 171761, 398711, 371084, 307416, 393789, 908320, 391938, 803378, 552371, 108391, 798223, 775898, 196454, 644628, 476858, 482605, 188124, 166025, 215338, 870462, 492740, 617879, 495715, 524293, 919805, 802409, 201094, 243400, 839140, 734665, 880823, 102511, 737193, 667583, 103140, 485218, 151233, 161989, 800290, 898068, 123008, 484650, 536226, 295247, 862940, 001350.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

THE SCOUT POST IS BACK!

THE Scout Post is here again in the Vale for Christmas 2016, offering the public of Barry and parts of the Vale and Cardiff the opportunity to send Christmas cards at a fraction of the cost of Royal Mail.

The scheme is for Christmas Cards only and by using Scout Post, you are helping us to raise the much-needed funds to keep the scouting movement going in the area.

Groups involved are given stamps to sell in the area that they deliver to; this is not always in the area that they do their Scouting.

Stamps are also sold by retail outlets and cards are also posted at the same place.

Stamps are currently on sale from the following outlets within Barry: Arbuthnot Opticians, 6 Broad Street; Barry Community Hospital, Colcot Road; Barry Mini Market, 192 Barry Road; Brynhill Golf Club Pro Shop, Port Road; Clemwood Stores, 28 Dock View Road; Costcutter, 17 Merthyr Dyfan Road; Crescent Stores, 41-42 Park Crescent; Cross St Stores, 15 Cross Street; DOPS, 42 Dockview Road; Food for Thought (The Deli), 12 High Street; Barry Town Council – 7 Gladstone Road; Hairflair, Maes y Cwm Street; Hilary West Florist, Bayfield Nurseries, 86 Colcot Road; Lakeside Newsagents, 6 Bron-y-Mor; Londis, 27 Ivor Street, Barry Island; Onestop, Plas Cleddau (Cwm Parc); Copy it – 196 Holton Road; Marshals Butchers, 76 Holton Road; Nina's Estate Agent, Broad Street; One Stop, Broad Street; The Laundry Rooms – 25 Vere Street; Premier Stores (newsagents), 22-23 High Street; Roy's Toys, 93 Main Street; Ruckleys, 45 Holton Road; S R Bailey Pharmacy, 9 Vere Street; SAI Stores, 15 Coldbrook Road; Salem Baptist Church, Beryl Road; Sandy's, 253 Holton Road; SS Stores Life Style Express, 38 Barry Road; Selley's convenience store 110 Park Crescent.

In Barry alone, 100,000 cards are delivered each year. Cards can only be delivered to the specified areas listed here. Any cards outside of these areas will not be delivered.

All undeliverable cards will be kept for a period of time then securely destroyed – do not post in Royal Mail boxes!

Vale of Glamorgan: Aberthin – Barry – Boverton – Bonvilston - Broughton Cadoxton - Cogan - Colwinston - Cowbridge – Craig Penllyne – Crossways – Dinas Powys – Dyffryn – East Aberthaw – Eglwys Brewis – Flemingston – Gileston – Llanbethery – Llanblethian – Llancarfan – Llandough – Llandough (CF71) – Llandow – Llanmaes – Llanmihangel – Llansannor – Llantrithyd – Llantwit Major – Llysworney – Maendy – Marcross – Monknash – Nash – Newton (CF71) – Penarth – Pendoylan – Penllyn – Penmark – Pentre Meryick – Peterston-super-Ely – Porthkerry – Prisk – Rhoose – Siginstone – St Athan – St Donats – St Georges – St Hilary – St Lythans – St Mary Church – St Mary Hill – St Nicholas – Sully – Tair Owen – The Downs – The Knap – Trehyngyll – Welsh St Donats – Wenvoe – Wick – Ystradowen.

Further information can be found at http://www.catvog.org/scoutpost/ .

Last date for posting is Monday, December 5.

ANTHONY WARE
1st Barry Sea Scout Group

SAVOYARDS EXCEL IN A G&S CLASSIC!

The production went 'with a zing'! Photographs by Keith E Morgan

WE all love a sailor – and the audience at The Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, watching *HMS Pinafore*, performed by the Mid Glamorgan Savoyards, loved the sailors, soloists, actors, chorus and orchestra who created the spirit of fun that is Gilbert and Sullivan.

The waves crashing on the Prom only added to the atmosphere. From the well known overture to the finale, the production went with a zing. A large chorus and orchestra filled the Pavilion with a wonderful sound.

As usual, the main soloists threw themselves into character. Linda Edwards as Mrs Cripps, "a plump and pleasant woman," also known as 'Little Buttercup' has a beautiful strong voice and acted her part perfectly, changing from a demure little woman, a woman with a secret and then into a slightly terrifying 'mystic'.

Chris Parsons as Ralph Rackstraw used his lugubrious face to great advantage as the Able Seaman in love with the captain's daughter. It's a classic G&S tale of love and class with the twist at the end which makes everything turn out well, with jokes at the expense of the Admiralty.

Both Rob Reynolds as Sir Joseph Porter, First Lord of the Admiralty who had never been to sea, and John Sadler as Captain Corcoran, took over the stage with their presence. Bronwen Beckett as Josephine, in love with our Able Seaman, showcased her vocal strength and acting ability throughout.

There were some lovely cameos from Chris Banks as Bill the Boatswain, Catherine Brown as Hebe and Gwyn Phillips as the carpenter Bob Becket. Of course we had to have a villain, Dick Deadeye, who was played with suitably rough enthusiasm and deep voice by Neil Davies. Such a strong cast!

The 30-piece orchestra under the baton of Roger Hudd kept up the momentum well. Cast and orchestra had only come together that afternoon and it is a tribute to the dedication and hard work of Roger, Andrew Griffiths and a group of friends that this, the Savoyards' 22nd charity event, was such a success.

The current profit totals £60,000, all for local charities. This year the charities benefiting are the Save The Children Fund, Macmillan Cancer Support and the Kidney Research Unit Foundation, Wales. Proceeds from *HMS Pinafore* total £3,000. An amazing achievement indeed.

Dominique Spearey

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CAVC sport students with their plaques and Run4Wales volunteer manager Naomi Warner and CAVC EPA Alyson Llewellyn.

College students awarded plaques by 'Run4 Wales'

CARDIFF and Vale College sport students have been given special plaques by Welsh Athletics' Run4Wales to thank them for their support during a series of sporting events.

Students from a range of the college's sport courses volunteered at hydration stations and in support roles during the IAAF/Cardiff University World Half Marathon Championships and at last month's Cardiff Half Marathon.

CAVC Employability and Progressions Advisor Alyson Llewellyn said: "I asked students from my sport groups to sign up to become volunteers as it would count towards their work experience hours and enhance their CVs.

"Seventy turned up for the Cardiff World Half Marathon Championships, which was televised across 53 countries, and we had more volunteers for the Half Marathon. I am very proud of what they have achieved and consequently they are all progressing within their chosen sport with a glowing CV."

Naomi Warner, volunteer manager at Run4Wales, said: "On Sunday, October 2, 17,000 runners took to the streets of Cardiff to tackle the Cardiff Half Marathon, the second largest half marathon in the UK.

"A team of students from Cardiff and Vale College joined an 800-strong team of volunteers, The Extra Milers, to get involved and make sure the runners and spectators had the best day possible.

"Volunteers are essential in making sure major sporting events like this happen, we really couldn't do without them, and it is great to have the continued support of the college.

"The students were also integral to the success of the IAAF/Cardiff University World Half Marathon Championships in March, working extremely hard to keep the 16,000 runners hydrated and supported.

"We wanted to say a huge 'thank you' to the students for their commitment and hard work."

'Water company still has work to do to cut complaints'

– SAYS CONSUMER COUNCIL

DŴR Cymru Welsh Water has more work to do to reduce the number of written complaints from its customers, says the Consumer Council for Water (CCWater).

Building on its September Complaints report, the consumer body on Tuesday published figures which show written complaints to the water company fell month-on-month between April and September 2016 – but complaints still remain 39 per cent higher when compared to the same period last year.1

Satisfaction with services and value for money among consumers in Wales remains higher than in England, but CCWater challenged Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to improve its performance on written complaints after it reported a 115 per cent rise during 2015/16.

Welsh Water responded by introducing a range of measures, including creating a dedicated team to tackle potential issues at an early stage before they escalate to a complaint.

But progress has not been as fast as CCWater would have liked so the water watchdog has urged the company to re-double its efforts or risk remaining one of the worst performing water companies in England and Wales for written complaints.

Tom Taylor, CCWater Wales chair, said: "While we recognise the company has taken steps to try and address the underlying causes, written complaints over the past six months remain higher than we would expect.

"Welsh Water has told us it expects to see complaints fall over the coming months but the company has a lot of ground to make up if it is to improve at all on last year's disappointing performance."

CCWater wrote to four water companies in Wales and England in September asking them to spell out what action they were taking to improve their complaint-handling performance. All four companies have been asked to provide CCWater with a further update in January on the progress they have made.

More support for the RNLI

ESTATE agents Herbert R Thomas have helped raise £18,500 for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in tandem with Ruth Jones at a charity event at The Royal Pavilion in Porthcawl on November 18.

Ruth had the support of friends and Gavin and Stacey co-star, Rob 'Uncle Bryn' Brydon, as well as singer Bonnie Tyler and Only Men Aloud.

An auction was held, which included a wide variety of items, conducted by Andrew Thomas, senior director of Herbert R Thomas, when the total raised on the evening was £18,500.

Ruth said: "Andrew 'Gavel' Thomas. What a class act! His highly impressive auctioneering skills took the whole evening into another league, and it was his panache and persuasion that made the bids go higher and higher, raising a fabulous amount for the charity. Thanks, Andrew. You totally rock!"

Andrew said: "Herbert R Thomas was incredibly proud to be part of a superb and worthy evening. I'm very pleased that we were able to raise such a large amount for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. I would also like to thank our host for the evening, Ruth Jones, who made the night memorable for all."

Make a wish for National Trust Wales!

A child looks upon the wish tree at Dyffryn Gardens with awe and wonder and takes in the silent majesty of a winter's morn and the clean, cool chill of the holiday air.

NATIONAL Trust Wales has announced its wish list for 2017 – focusing on nature and the safe keeping of special places.

Special Christmas wish trees that the charity has installed in places they care for across Wales, are available for visitors to make their wish.

Visitors can contribute to the conservation of their special places, including vital work to the great outdoor spaces under its care.

Locally, there will be wish trees at Tredegar House and Dyffryn Gardens. Previous visitors to Dyffryn Gardens may well have noticed the empty pool at the end of the great lawn. Once a large, beautiful fountain that could be seen from the house, structural weakness of the walls and a leaky bottom has left the pool empty for ten years. The Trust wants to restore the 1900s fountain to its former glory.

Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out/regionwales/christmas-in-wales.

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Bridgend's budding young engineers explore aerospace

ABOVE: Oldcastle Primary School pupils at ICAT next to BAe Jetstream T2 XX487/CU-568 of 750 Naval Air Squadron.

A GROUP of budding aircraft engineers from a Bridgend school have paid a visit to Cardiff and Vale College to see its internationally renowned aerospace facilities.

Pupils from Oldcastle Primary School visited the college's International Centre for Aerospace Training (ICAT), based at Cardiff Airport in Rhoose, as part of their science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) week programme.

They were given the opportunity to take off and land at the airport on flight simulators and had a full demonstration and display from flight safety officers in a Boeing 737 fuselage 'Classroom in the Sky'. The Oldcastle pupils were also given a full tour of ICAT's hangar and workshop areas to have a chance to play with the college's Bulldog and Jetstream aircraft.

"It was a great pleasure to welcome the future of the Aerospace sector to ICAT," Aircraft Engineering Lecturer Chris Pilcher said. "The students from Oldcastle school asked lots of questions and really engaged in the afternoon's activities. It was great to accommodate them and hopefully inspire the engineers and aircrew of the future."

Sisters raise £6,000 for Penarth hospice that cared for their parents

THREE sisters have joined forces to raise thousands for a Penarth hospice – after both their parents received care there.

Rachel Powell and her sisters Sally Keenan and Lisa Thomas, organised three fundraising dinner dances for the Marie Curie, Cardiff and the Vale Hospice, raising more than £6,000.

The three support the charity as their father, Lyndon 'Terry' Radford and their mother Helen Radford, of Whitchurch, Cardiff, died at the hospice in 2008 and 2014.

"We held the first dinner and dance at Spiro's, St Peter's Hall in Roath and the other two at the Cardiff Masonic Hall," said Rachel. "We had been to a similar event not long after dad passed away and thought we would be able to organise something similar to help raise money.

"We also took part in the Walk Ten for Marie Curie in Margam Park with 20 of our family and friends. Both our mum and dad were cared for at the hospice, dad in 2008 and mum in 2014.

"We found out they both had cancer when they were in hospital and dad was in the hospice for a week and mum for 10 days.

"They both passed away in the hospice, but had received such a good level of care when they were here.

"We stayed overnight towards the end, and made use of the family facilities. Coming from a hospital environment and into the hospice was just such a peaceful experience for everyone."

The trio also held a Blooming Great Tea Party as part of the charity's June campaign for the first time, and are hoping to replicate in summer 2017.

"We're glad to be able to help out people who are in the same situation as we've been in," added Rachel.

"So far, we have raised over £10,000 for Marie Curie. We're hoping to be able to do a family fun day or something similar in the future, but we will be continuing to fundraise."

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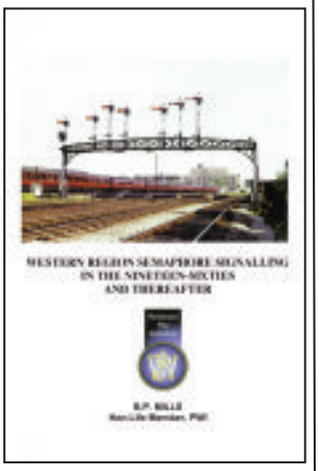

FOLLOWING a lifetime of study and photographing Western Region railway semaphore signalling, Brian Mills (the late Alf Mills' son) has published a 277-page fully colour-illustrated book (pictured above) on the subject through the Permanent Way Institution.

Containing many photos of signalling in the south Wales area and with detailed captions, a copy has been placed in the reference section of Barry Library.

Open invitation to Cowbridge fundraisers this Christmas

by SAM CORKHILL

FIVE gold rings, four calling birds, three worthy causes, two joined forces and a Christmas Shopping Breather: Cowbridge has a string of party fundraisers organised as the countdown to Christmas begins – and you're invited!

Firstly, the biannual trip to South Africa organised by Cowbridge Comprehensive has returned, where sixth-form students such as me are offered the opportunity to work with the Goedgedacht Trust for a week, experiencing the culture (and hardships) of a continent most of us have never even visited before.

In order to apply for this eye-opening opportunity, candidates had to write a letter expressing interest and sit an interview with senior members of the authority in the school.

Following this, each successful applicant was assigned the task of raising a minimum of £1,000 before the flight.

The visit consists of two weeks, one which involves climbing Table-Top Mountain, whale-watching and seeing the "Big Five", while the other is a hands-on programme with the Trust.

During the week with the Trust, our mornings will be spent on outdoor labour such as farming or fixing bikes.

Once morning school finishes, we will then be working with children under the Trust's care, be that as carers, teachers or entertainers. At the same time, this serves to continue developing the school's relations with the Trust. So why the Goedgedacht Trust?

Set up in 1992, the Trust alleviates poverty in rural areas, where the effects of such hardships are often overlooked. The flagship programme, "POP" (Path Out of Poverty), provides education in order to help youths develop, so that they can take on employment successfully as young adults.

The focal point of the Trust is its target of sustainable methods; when the support offered by the Trust for each child lasts around 20 years, the Trust needs to be as self-sufficient as possible, thus ensuring even relatively small contributions remain significant for a longer period of time.

The Trust's current project of setting up an industry in olive farming is the epitome of their focus on sustainability.

To find out more about the Goedgedacht Trust, visit their website *www.goedgedacht.org*.

Simultaneously, Jackie Thomas, a Cowbridge resident, has started raising funds for Brain Tumour Research and Y Bwthyn Newydd, the palliative care unit in Bridgend.

Y Bwthyn Newydd offers terminally ill patients dignity and comfort in the final weeks, or even months of their lives, while also providing loved ones with support.

The heart-warming ideals of this institution clearly struck a chord with Jackie, as she has been moved to organise events to raise up to £5 000 between the two charities.

When asked about her reasons for fundraising for Brain Tumour Research, Jackie explained that this particular branch only receives one per cent of all national funding for cancer research, yet brain tumours are the largest cancer killers in the under-40 age group.

The Goedgedacht Trust, Brain Tumour Research and Y Bwthyn Newydd: these are the three worthy causes mentioned in the opening line of this article.

The two joined forces are the result of an arrangement between Jackie and myself; very generously, Jackie has agreed to employ up to three students at a time as waiting staff during her events, where our earnings go towards our fundraising.

Each of these events consist of either a lunch or evening meal, hosted and cooked at Jackie's gorgeous own home.

Of the four meals, three have been fully booked.

However, the final event ('A Christmas Shopping Breather') is open and you are invited! Join us for an informal light lunch (and a glass of wine!) between 12:30pm and 6.30pm on December 10.

There will also be a raffle drawn at the end of the day.

You can buy a ticket from any of the following shops in Cowbridge: Jon Ian, Cathy Gittins or the Bay Tree.

Alternatively, you can call Jackie on 07841 594144. Please be aware that tickets are £20 and they are subject to availability, so make sure you get there before anyone else does!

In any case, we can't wait to meet you at 6 Westgate, Cowbridge on the day!

Donations are gratefully accepted, and if you feel like you can part with a fiver (or even more!) in the interest of my South Africa trip, please send a cheque made payable to Mr Samuel Corkill at the following address: Whitefields Forge, Welsh St Donats, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan CF71 7SS. Apologies for the payment method- online fundraisers all want a cut!

All funds raised go towards the cost of the trip, until £2 000 have been raised. Following this, any further money raised becomes a direct donation to the Goedgedacht trust.

Join us in the festive season in supporting these three worthy causes! The current record at our school is £6,000 – perhaps you could help me give this record a run for its money?

Left to Right: Fundraising pupils Lowri, Sam, and Charlotte waiting tables at the first event on November 20.

DUO IN CONCERT FOR VELINDRE CANCER CARE

SINGER-songwriter Hank Hillman and Barry artist and musician Glyn Pooley, have been performing at 10 venues across the Vale of Glamorgan, as part of their concerts raise funds for Velindre Cancer Care 'Cahon with the Wind'.

"I congratulate Hank and Glyn for organising the concerts. They recently performed at Golau Caredig in Barry to a delighted audience," commented Vale AM Jane Hutt.

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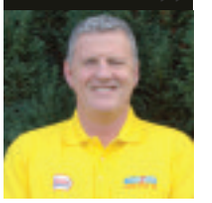

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W.A.S. NHS Trust winter action plan

THE Welsh Ambulance Service has revealed an action plan to protect patients and 'improve staff experience' over the winter.

Locally, initiatives are being put in place, including two community paramedic trials in the Vale.

Some 20 new emergency medical technicians, 12 new paramedics and 15 new members of urgent care service crew will start work with the Trust.

An additional five 'Hear and Treat' clinicians will also be in place within Clinical Contact Centres from December to provide advice to callers who do not have serious or life threatening conditions.

Other initiatives include the training and deployment of Community First Responders to help fallers, and the placement of clinicians within police control rooms to triage calls and make sure appropriate resources are sent to the scene of incidents.

Art exhibition winners collect group's awards

IN October 2016 Cowbridge Comprehensive School held an art exhibition by its sixth form pupils at the Old Hall.

Hannah Redfern-Hughes (left), Rachel Bent (centre) and Olivia Stephens (right), with David Clough of Cowbridge Arts Group.

The standard of work was exceptionally high and in November, three winners were presented with their awards by Mr David Clough, a member of the Cowbridge Arts Group committee.

Third prize went to Olivia Stephens who is applying to university to study history of art because of her commitment to her A Level subjects – English literature, history and art.

Second prize went to Hannah Redfern-Hughes, who is exploring landscape as a theme this year and attended the Cowbridge Art Society's demonstration by Pete Monaghan (one of the inspirations for her work) and his exhibition in Cardiff.

Hannah is applying to an art foundation course before deciding her specialism at degree level.

The first prize went to Rachel Bent, who has applied to a full time dance school for the next three years because of her exceptional ability as a ballet/contemporary dancer.

The Cowbridge Arts Group organises a rolling programme of monthly exhibitions by local schools, colleges, and local south east Wales artists, photographers and crafts men and women at the Old Hall Cowbridge.

The programme is now fully booked up to March 2018, but further information can be seen on *https://www.facebook.com/OldHallGallery/* and application forms from individuals or groups who would like to exhibit there beyond that date are available from area development officer, Sally Perini at *sperini@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk*. **A LLOYD**

Christmas lunch with Santa, or
a family Christmas Day lunch
at Copthorne Hotel, Cardiff.

Family Christmas Day Lunch

If you don't want to cook this Christmas but a restaurant environment isn't exactly what you're looking for, then why not attend a Family Christmas Day Lunch in the Castell Suite, Copthorne Hotel, Cardiff.

You'll choose and pre-order a delicious plated starter, followed by a sumptuous main course platter of carved turkey, roasted vegetables, roast potatoes & all the Christmas Day trimmings served to your table for you to enjoy. If you're not too full after all that, you can make the most of a selection of rich desserts to help yourself to and finally wash it all down with teas and coffee.

3 Courses - £45 per adult • £20 per child
(Booking essential)

Please call 02920 599100 to book your table.

Copthorne CARDIFF

Christmas Lunch with Santa
11th, 18th, 23rd & 24th December 12 midday - 2pm.

Menu

Starters
Roast Mediterranean Tomato Soup served with Basil Oil.

Main Course
Ballontine of Grain Fed Turkey with an Orange and Cranberry Stuffing.
Including Roast Potatoes, Parsnips, Carrots, Brussel Sprouts and Roasting Juices.

Desserts
Traditional Individual Christmas Pudding with Brandy Anglaise.

Children's Menu
Tomato Soup, Breaded Chicken Goujons Beans & Chips, Ice Cream Trio.

3 Course Buffet from £16.95 per adult • £9.95 per child up to age 12.

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Santa *(and elves)* head for hospice

SANTA will make a special visit to Penarth on Saturday (December 3), when a Christmas fayre will be held at the Marie Curie Cardiff and Vale hospice, to help raise funds for the 'Hospice Hikers'.

Four of the hospice staff – Sarah Harry, Sam Metcalfe, Lauren James and Beth Webster – are signed up to take part in the Sri Lanka trek in aid of the hospice next year and are hosting a number of events to help them fundraise.

The fete will be held from noon to 4pm at the hospice and there will be homemade cakes, stalls and a raffle – along with Christmas carols, little ones can enjoy a visit to Santa's Grotto for stories from the elves.

Entry to the fete is £1 for adults, with children admitted free; there is a £2.50 charge to enter Santa's Grotto.

Penarth Tree Festival

THE 16th Penarth Christmas Tree Festival will take place at St Augustine's church over the weekend of December 10-11.

Some 50 trees will be on display having been decorated by local individuals, businesses and charities.

The festival, featuring live music, will open at 11am and will be open for visitors until 5pm on Saturday.

On Sunday, it will be open between 12 noon and 5pm. to a full and varied programme of live music.

The proceeds from the Christmas tree festival are being divided between three charities: one local; one national; and one international.

This year's benficiaries are Kotu Trust (Gambia), Barnado's Cymru and Making Music Changing Live, which are based in the Ely area of Cardiff.

The concert commences at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 (£6 for students) and may be purchased online at www.cardiffpolyphonic.org.uk.

It will also be posssible to purchase a ticket at the door, subject to capacity.

WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE?

Cowbridge country market

ON Friday, December 2, there will be a special Christmas event.

Taste samples of goodies and place an order for Christmas; small hampers can be ordered and a gift-wrapping service is offered.

Enjoy the new look tea room in Lesser Hall, Cowbridge from 9.30am – 11.30am. There is also a stall at the Farmers' Market on December 3.

Star Men

THE Bridgend Astronomical Society has a special meeting on December 2. *Star Men*, a full-length movie, stars four 'retired' British astronomers. Pyle church hall at 7.30pm. *All are welcome!*

History talk

THE Cowbridge History Society's next lecture of the season on Friday, December 2 in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge, is 'From Canton to Kensington – William Goscombe John, sculptor,' by Gwerfyl Gardner.

All welcome; wine and mince pies to follow. www.cowbridgehistorysociety.org.

Cathedral concert

WALES' contribution to testosterone-fuelled operatic singing, the Ten Welsh Tenors, are back by popular demand at Llandaff Cathedral on Saturday, December 3 at 7pm.

Join the 10 tenors and guests for a sumptuous feast of popular operatic delights, which will not cost you 10 tenners but two tenners!

All money raised will fund defibrillators and heart screening sessions throughout Wales. Admission £20. Contact 02922 402670.

Enfys craft fair

ON Saturday, December 3 Enfys will hold their last craft fair of 2016 at the St Ffransis Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry (CF62 6NX) between 10am – 4pm; free entry.

Barry branch of the NCI (National Coastwatch Institution) is the Enfys charity for December.

The next craft fair is on February 4. Contact Ken Lyons on 01446 792149 for more information.

Toys and trains

THE Bridgend Toy and Train Sale will take place on December 3 at 10am to 3pm in Bridgend Leisure Centre, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AH.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "For some time, our traders and customers have been urging us to operate in the Brigend area and we are happy to have been able to deliver on this. Our sister shows at Cardiff and Barry are running successfully and it is hoped that Bridgend will follow suit over time."

Telephone 01643 702757, 07966 694579 or see www.chrisdyerfa.

Cowbridge craft fair

THE charity Emmaus is holding a Christmas craft fair on Sunday, December 4 at Cowbridge Town Hall (10am – 2pm).

Crafts, handmade Christmas decorations, raffle, tombola, tea and cake.

Carol service to remember loved ones

A CAROL service is being held in Llantwit Major to give relatives a special opportunity to remember loved ones they have lost.

Local funeral directors WA Brown & Son are inviting residents to attend the service at St Illtud's Church on Tuesday, December 6 at 7pm.

A spokesman explained: "It will be a time when we can think of those we have lost and share this service with other people. Coffee, tea and mince pies will be served in the church following the service.

"We are also inviting people to take a 'remembrance tag' write a message on it and hang it on our remembrance Christmas tree at the funeral home across the road on a week day leading up to Christmas.

"Any donations we receive will be divided between the Rainbows and Beavers of Llantwit Major."

Christmas craft fayre

EMMAUS South Wales hold a Christmas Craft Fayre on Sunday, December 4 at Cowbridge Town Hall from 10am-2pm.

Christmas gifts, jewellery, greetings cards, African gifts, driftwood Christmas trees, tombola, silk flower arrangements and raffle. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available.

For more information, call Laura on 07770 850049 or Kate on 02920 229437.

Harmony concert

THE Harmony charity Christmas concert takes place at St David's Church, Maesteg, on Friday, December 9 at 7.15pm.

Tickets (£5) now on sale from any chorister, or call Wendy Murphy on 07983 571578 (or pay on the door).

Christmas carols, sherry, mince pies and raffle in festive surroundings with many lovely decorated Christmas trees!

All proceeds will go to the choir's charity this year – Tenovus Cancer Care.

PACT meetings

NEWCASTLE PACT at Westward Community Centre on Tuesday, December 5 at 7.15pm.

CEFN GLAS, LLANGEWYDD and BRYNHYFRYD PACT at Westward Community Centre on Tuesday, December 5 at 7.15pm.

BRYNTIRION, LALESTON and MERTHYR MAWR PACT at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston on Thursday, December 8 at 7pm.

MORFA WILDMILL PACT at the Community Life Centre, the Precinct, Wildmill on Thursday, December 8 at 6pm.

Volunteers' fair

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) will host The BIG Volunteering Fair on Wednesday, January 18 from 11am – 4pm at Barry Memorial Hall.

Go along on the day or contact GVS, 01446 741706; email enquiries@gvs.wales, or to www.gvs.wales.

Go to The GEM for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

The Hoff is hooked for Peter Pan(to)

THE New Theatre, Cardiff has announced a major casting coup for this year's forthcoming pantomime *Peter Pan*, as it has secured superstar David Hasselhoff at the helm, in the role of Captain Hoff the Hook, Neverland's ultimate bad boy.

Best known for his roles in the television programmes *Knight Rider* and *Baywatch*, and a famous cameos in the films *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story, and Ted 2* 'The Hoff' is thrilled to be returning to Cardiff.

"I love being in pantomime, it's a lot of fun and to tell the story of Peter Pan is a huge honour, especially as I made my stage debut in the show as a child. I'm particularly happy to be spending Christmas with the people of Cardiff– so watch out Wales, 'Hoff the Hook' is coming to get you!"

Joining Mr Hasselhoff will be Cardiff's much-loved dame, Mike Doyle, who will star as Mrs Smee. *Peter Pan* marks his fourth consecutive panto appearance at the New Theatre, a venue he has appeared at many times during his 26-year panto career.

Following last year's critically acclaimed appearance as Widow Twankey in *Aladdin*, Mr Doyle will bring his array of comedy, costumes and audience participation to the high seas this Christmas.

Executive producer of *Peter Pan*, Jonathan Kiley, said: "We are thrilled to be bringing the legendary Hoff to the New Theatre this pantomime season. Both David and Mike are true showmen and panto naturals and will bring a wealth of stage experience to the production. They will be joined by a fabulous supporting cast in a show full of top-drawer production values, stunning scenery, special effects and spectacular costumes. Peter Pan will be an unmissable theatrical event in Cardiff this festive season".

New Theatre general manager, Grant McFarlane, commented: "Once again, Cardiff will be presenting Wales' biggest pantomime. The combination of The Hoff and Mike Doyle has all of the theatre staff on tenterhooks, and we cannot wait to share the show with everyone."

Audiences can expect to take a fairytale flight to Neverland this Christmas in the swashbuckling family adventure full of evil pirates, the Lost Boys, a very hungry crocodile and the meanest man in Neverland, Captain Hook.

The Peter Pan panto plays from December 10 to January 8.

Community choir on festive form!

CELEBRATE Christmas with the Barry Community Choir, which will be singing Christmas songs and carols old and new, with festive nibbles after the concert on December 10.

Children are welcome, and there's no charge for them up to the age of 16. Emma Arscott and Sian Davies will be playing piano duets during the concert,

So put 3pm on Saturday, December 10 at Crossways Church, Barry, in your diary! Contact the choir via Facebook, website (www.barrycommunitychoir.com) or call 01446 748724.

Popping up and at home in Cowbridge!

IN response to a reported exc-ellent reception at their September pop-up, The Vintage HQ, specialist retailer, valuer and purchaser of all things vintage, will call Cowbridge their home for winter 2016.

For five weeks until Sunday, January 8 the vintage experts are at 23b High Street, Cowbridge and are, once again, stocking true vintage clothing, accessories, furniture and collectables – including exceptional vintage mink, sable and fox fur garments.

In addition to offering a private valuation and purchase service – for vintage fur, clothing, heirlooms, antiques and collectable – The Vintage HQ can now boast the title of south Wales' only fur remodelling and furrier service.

Joining the team at 23b High Street are Sloane Home (crafter of hand-poured Welsh-made candles and delicious spirits), Alexandra Rose (quirky but tasteful taxidermy artist) and Ffwr (professional crafter of natural wool and fur accessories) making 23b the one-stop-shop for Christmas 2017!

Visit www.TheVintageHQ.com.

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Website: chrisdyerfairs.co.uk

LIGHT A CANDLE AND WEAR A WHITE RIBBON

– for an end to domestic violence against women

LAST WEEK we marked the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women with a cross-party gathering, a candlelit vigil at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay, and a service at Llandaff Cathedral.

In plenary, we were reminded by Joyce Watson AM, who started the White Ribbon campaign in Wales over a decade ago, of the origins of the campaign. In 1991, the first White Ribbon campaign was launched by a group of men in Canada after the brutal mass shooting of 14 female students at the University of Montreal.

Since 2012, Joyce has worked with the National Federation of Women's Institutes in Wales to develop the 'Not in My Name' campaign. This engages with men to support the White Ribbon campaign, and has been taken up by local authorities, emergency services, trade unions, farming bodies, workplaces, sports bodies, male voice choirs, schools and colleges.

The Welsh Government statement in plenary was made by Carl Sargeant AM, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children, and he also spoke in Llandaff Cathedral alongside victims of violence and representatives of different faiths – Buddist, Jewish, Hindu and Muslim.

At the cathedral, I sat by the Mayor of Cardiff, Coun Monica Walsh and we shared memories of the first Women's Aid refuge in Wales, which I helped to establish – with the support of the Lord Mayor at the time, Coun Albert Huish.

We remembered those days when we were campaigning hard to get the issue of domestic violence recognised by local authorities, the police, the courts and by society. We both said this had been a motivating force for us to get involved in politics – to try and influence those who were in power.

On Friday, we were reminded again of the statistics which reveal that in Wales over 47,000 incidents of domestic abuse were reported to the police in 2014/15 and in the UK. In a street made up of 100 houses, 20 of the women on the street will have been a victim of a sexual offence.

The Mayor of Cardiff and I have key positions of responsibility in Wales and we pledged ourselves again on Friday, as members of the congregation in a packed cathedral, to continue to work towards the elimination of violence against women – not just on White Ribbon Day, but every day.

My long-standing support for Atal y Fro in the Vale of Glamorgan, which provides refuge, support, second stage housing and preventative action, enables me to help initiatives in my constituency as well as at Government level as the cabinet minister responsible for Welsh Government business and as Leader of the House. (Atal Y Fro can be contacted at 01446 744755 and by emailing info@atalyfro.org.)

The White Ribbon which we wore last week is a symbol of hope for a world where women and girls can live free from the fear of violence. Thank you to BAWSO, Welsh Women's Aid, Llamau, New Pathways, Safer Wales, Unite, WCIA and Llandaff Cathedral for marking the White Ribbon Day in such a powerful way.

Finally, on Friday afternoon I was also delighted to open Tarmac's Aberthaw Cement plant new rail facility, which will ensure that 2,500 truck movements will be removed from our roads each year, as the company delivers on its pledge to support sustainable delivery of materials and cut transport CO2.

I climbed aboard the freight train, which is now connected to the main Vale line and taking trucks by rail to Westbury and Cornwall. These would have been previously transported by road.

This was a wonderful experience and I congratulate Aberthaw Cement plant for investing in its infrastructure in this way to substantially benefit local people, communities, the economy and the environment.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by VALE AM JANE HUTT
(Leader of the House)

Brave Carolyn wins a prestigious caring award

A WOMAN who took a chance when she spotted a job advert has reaped the benefit by receiving a prestigious award.

Brave mum Carolyn Hall who has battled against Crohn's Disease, was among those honoured at a ceremony at City Hall, Cardiff. MC was opera singer Wynne Evans, aka as Gio Compario from the Go Compare TV adverts..

She was among the winners at this year's Wales Care Awards organised by Care Forum Wales to recognise good practice in the sector.

The 48-year-old mother of one received a bronze award in the category for Supported Living or Small Group Community Living Practitioner.

Carolyn was looking for something to fill her time when she spotted the advert for a domiciliary care worker by the Barry-based company All Care South Wales Limited.

"I didn't really think it was going to be for me, but I thought I'd give it a go," she explained.

She was nominated for the award by her line manager Ceri Anne Gratton, who commented: "Carolyn has a holistic approach to her work and communicates simple ideas to her supervisors to enable care packages to run smoothly.

"Her work with individuals suffering with dementia has been exceptional and the praise she has received has proved her commitment and passion for her role."

Carolyn Hall with her award.

Vale AM lends support to HIV Testing Week

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, last week backed HIV Testing Week by encouraging local people to get tested.

She joined Terrence Higgins Trust at the Assembly calling for people to help stop HIV transmission in Wales by taking a free, fast and confidential test.

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SÊR EIRY

Rhagfyr 2016

NADOLIG LLAWEN I HOLL DDARLLENWYR Y GEM

ARIES: Mae teithio ar y cardiau Aries, a pha adeg gwell i fynd ar wyliau ond adeg y Nadolig, pan fo pob man yn dathlu? Mae'r byd a'i wraig yn mynd yn yr haf. Ewch a mwynhewch! Os nad yw hynny'n bosib falle y bydd rhywun yn teithio o bellafoedd daear i ymweld â chi. Beth bynnag ddaw, ry'ch chi'n siwr o gael Nadolig wrth eich bodd.

TAURUS: Dych chi ddim yn debygol o gael problemau ariannol y Rhagfyr hwn, felly mwynhewch eich cyfoeth tra paro, gan fod dyddiau llwm yn debygol o ddod ar ôl y Nadolig (gormod o wario gwirion ar yr Wyl falle?). Nawr yw'r amser felly i roi cíldwrn yn y cadw-mi-gei ar gyfer diwrnod glawog.

GEMINI: Mae na fil eitha sylweddol ar ei ffordd - gobeithio fod gyda chi ddigon ar ei gyfer! Mae hwn yn gyfnod ardderchog i wneud gwaith ar y ty, paentio, papuro, adeiladu, garddio - felly mwynhewch! Os oes raid i chi symud ty ceisiwch ei ohirio tan y flwyddyn newydd, i osgoi unrhyw siom a allai ddigwydd.

CANCER: Rydych chi fel rheol yn ofalus rhag gwneud newidiadau mawr yn eich bywyd, ond mae'r ser o'ch plaid ar hyn o bryd, ac yn barod i'ch helpu i wneud newidiadau cyffrous iawn. Ond mae'n bosib na fydd y teulu yn cytuno - felly byddwch yn amyneddgar, a gwrandewch ar eu hochr hwy cyn penderfynu.

LEO: Mae hwn yn addo bod yn aeaf rhamantus iawn, ac fe allai hynny'ch arwain i ymddwyn yn fyrbwyll braidd. Da chi triwch beidio â gorwario dros gyfnod y Nadolig, a pheidio prynnu dim byd drud heb ysyried, achos mi fyddwch yn siwr o ddifaru'ch enaid pan ddaw biliau'r flwyddyn newydd.

VIRGO: Mae cyfnod creadigol iawn o'ch blaen. Mae gyda chi lawer mwy o hyder yn eich gallu ar hyn o bryd, ac fe gewch gyfle cyn bo hir i synnu sawl person dylanwadol gyda'ch talent. Mae eich sefyllfa ariannol braidd yn ansefydlog, ond fe ddylai swm sylweddol sy'n ddyledus i chi gyrraedd cyn y Nadolig.

LIBRA: Mae'r sefyllfa gartre yn dueddol o fod braidd yn ansefydlog ar hyn o bryd - falle eich bod yn bwriadu symud ty ac wedi cael eich siomi, ond na phoenwch - siom dros dro fydd hi; ac erbyn canol Rhagfyr fe ddylech gael newyddion i godi'r galon. Mae perthynas agos yn debygol o fod yn ddraenen yn eich ystlys.

SCORPIO: Triwch gadw'ch trwyn yn lân a chadw draw oddi wrth unrhyw broblemau cytundebol neu gyfreithiol. Peidiwch ag arwyddo unrhyw ddogfen swyddogol, os na fydd raid, o leiaf tan yr ail wythnos yn Ionawr. Mae rhywun yn y gwaith yn mynd i'ch helpu mewn ffordd ymarferol iawn. Ac fe ddylech gael Nadolig wrth eich bodd.

SAGITTARIUS: Mae hwn yn debygol o fod yn gyfnod prysur iawn; o'r braidd bydd eich traed yn cyffwrdd â'r llawr. Mae'n bwysig felly eich bod yn cymryd gofal o'ch iechyd, a gofalu eich bod yn cael digon o gwsg - felly llai o bartïon!. Rydych chi'n tueddu i anwybyddu'ch corff hyd nes iddo dynnu sylw at ei hun.

CAPRICORN: Mi fydd hwn yn Ragfyr eitha difrifol. Mae cyfnod o waith caled o'ch blaen; gwaith ymenyddol, a llawer o ddysgu ac astudio. Mi fyddwch wrth eich bodd wrthgwrs, does dim yn eich plesio'n fwy na chael cyfle i ddarllen ac ymchwilio; ond cofiwch beidio ag esgeuluso dathliadau'r Nadolig yn eich brwdfrydedd.

AQUARIUS: Mae hi'n gyfnod ffafriol iawn i faterion y galon ar hyn o bryd. Cofiwch beidio â rhuthro'r sefyllfa chwaith, a gofalwch beidio â llosgi'ch bysedd trwy fod yn rhy feiddgar. Fe allech gael eich brifo'n ddwfn iawn, neu frifo rywun arall. Mae rhywun yn mynd i roi anrheg mawr drud i chi fydd braidd yn embarasing.

PISCES: Byddwch yn amnyeddgar a daliwch eich tafod y Rhagfyr hwn, gan fod cweryla yn yr awyr yn enwedig o gwmpas cyfnod y Nadolig, a hynny gydag aelod hyn o'r teulu. A rwy'n ofni mai chi fydd yn gyfrifol am ddechrau'r cweryl. Rhaid ystyried a chofio nad yw pawb yn gweld pethau yr un ffordd â chi.

EIRY PALFREY

Ffilm Nadolig hudolus: Albi a Noa yn Achub yr Iwnifyrs

Ffrindiau dychmygol, caneuon cofiadwy a dathliadau'r Nadolig - cyfuniad hudolus ar gyfer ffilm newydd sbon, Albi a Noa yn Achub yr Iwnifyrs..

Seren y ffilm yw Noa, bachgen 7 mlwydd oed, a'i deulu prysur. Mae mam a dad wastad yn gweithio, ond dydy hynny'n poeni dim ar Noa am fod ganddo gwmni ei gyfaill pennaf, ei ffrind dychmygol Albi.

Wrth wylio hynt a helynt y ddau gyfaill hoffus ar ddydd Nadolig ar S4C, bydd eich teulu cyfan yn canu, mwynhau a chwerthin yn eu cwmni.

Y cerddorion Caryl Parry Jones a Non Parry sydd wedi creu'r ffilm, a Caryl sydd wedi cyfansoddi pob cân... felly, pwy well na Caryl i esbonio mwy am fyd Albi a Noa?:

Disgrifiwch y ffilm i ni mewn 3 gair.

Cynnes, cyffrous, emosiynol.

Beth wnaethoch chi ei fwynhau orau am ysgrifennu Albi a Noa yn Achub yr Iwnifyrs?

Dwi a Non wrth ein boddau efo ffilmiau teuluol, cynnes, Nadoligaidd beth bynnag, felly roedd creu un ein hunain yn fraint. Creu'r cymeriadau ydy'r darn anoddaf a'r dasg sy'n rhoi'r mwyaf o bleser.

Pam dewis creu ffilm am fachgen bach a'i ffrind dychmygol?

Mae rhywbeth sydd gan y ddwy ohonom ni ddiddordeb ynddo fo. Mae pŵer y dychymyg mor bwysig ac yn ein barn ni mae o'n rhywbeth y dylid ei annog a'i barchu yn enwedig mewn plant.

Mae eich ffilm 'Y Dyn Nath Ddwyn y 'Dolig', wedi hudo cenedlaethau o blant ers yr '80au. Sut mae Albi a Noa yn Achub yr Iwnifyrs yn cymharu â'r ffilm honno?

Calon ydy'r peth pwysig yn y ddwy ffilm. Mae 30 mlynedd wedi pasio ers 'Y Dyn Nath Ddwyn y 'Dolig' felly dwi'n gobeithio 'mod i wedi dysgu lot yn y cyfamser!

Rydych chi a Non Williams wedi cydweithio o'r blaen ar ysgrifennu'r gyfres Anita. Beth yw cyfrinach eich partneriaeth?

Mae'r bartneriaeth rhyngddo i a Non yn gweithio'n grêt. Mae Anita'n gyfres ac Albi a Noa yn ffilm ac mae 'na wahanol 'reolau' yn perthyn i'r ddau beth. Ond mae Non a fi yn rhannu'r un hiwmor felly yn gyffredinol, 'dan ni'n cael lot o hwyl... a bwyd.

Un o le ydych chi, a beth yw'r atgof orau sy' gennych chi o'r Nadolig yno?

O Ffynnongroyw, Sir y Fflint. Roedd Mam yn wych am drefnu'r Nadolig i ni ac roedd cyngerdd yr ysgol a Drama'r Geni yng Nghapel Bethania wastad yn uchafbwyntiau.

Mae'r Nadolig ar fin cyrraedd - beth yw'r traddodiadau Nadolig yn eich teulu chi?

Addurno, bwyta, llwyth o anrhegion, gwylio ffilmiau Nadolig yn ddi-dor, gwylio rhaglenni coginio Nadoligaidd... Ambell flwyddyn, 'dan ni'n cynnal cyngerdd Nadolig fel teulu, ond fyddwn ni ddim eleni gan fod fy merch hynaf, Elan, yn dathlu pen-blwydd pwysig ar Noswyl Nadolig.

Rydych chi nawr yn byw yn y Bont-faen. Ydy'r traddodiadau Nadolig yn wahanol i'r rhai yn Ffynnongroyw?

Fe allwn i fod yn byw yn y Maldives a byddai'n Nadolig ni'n union yr un peth! Mae'n rhywbeth sy'n cael ei basio o un genhedlaeth i'r llall dwi'n meddwl.

Beth yw'r anrheg waethaf rydych chi erioed wedi'i rhoi i rywun?

Roedd fy mab wedi cael anrheg gan Siôn Corn mewn rhyw barti ac mewn panig, am fy mod i wedi anghofio, mi ail-lapiais yr anrheg a'i rhoi i'w ffrind, gan anghofio ei fod o hefyd wedi bod i'r un parti ac wedi cael yr un anrheg gan Siôn Corn!

Albi a Noa yn Achub yr Iwnifyrs

Dydd Nadolig, 25 Rhagfyr 7.30

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Ar alw: s4c.cymru; BBC iPlayer a llwyfannau eraill

Cynhyrchiad Boom Cymru ar gyfer S4C.

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Mi fydd Merched y Wawr, y Barri yn cyfarfod am 2.15 ar brynhawn Llun 5 Rhagfyr yn nhŷ bwyta Foxy's ym Mhenarth. Mi fydd y Parchedig Kevin Davies yno i'n diddori gydag ychydig o drefnu ar gyfer y Nadolig!

Am fwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Heulwen Cooper: heulwen@ntlworld.com

Mynd am Dro i Fro...

gyda Dailingual

A hithau yn prysur lithro i ddiwedd y flwyddyn, gall fod yn amser i gnoi cil ar yr hyn sydd wedi mynd rhagddi. Dyma felly gipolwg ar rai o uchafbwyntiau'r golofn hon..

Y Bontfaen

Yn ogystal â honni taw taw enw gwreiddiol y Bontfaen oedd "Y Dref Hir yn y Waun" meddai C.J. Evans taw hanfod yr enw modern yw'r hanesyn lleol:

fe gafodd buwch a oedd yn cael ei ddilyn gan gŵn ar garlam ei dal yn y bont garreg; stori sydd yn gwneud synnwyr mewn mwy nag un ystyr efallai – gwelwn felly fod y fersiwn Cymraeg yn deillio o fwy nag un tarddiad:

• Pont carreg neu faen

• Pont nad sydd yn lydan – sy'n fain felly

Ffontygari:

Ceir sôn gan Howard Jones taw 'font' yr un modd â'r iaith fain sydd yma; sef ffynhonnell o ddŵr.

Carai Jones i chi wybod hefyd bod "carrai" yn golygu darn o ledr tenau i wisgo, clymu neu i chwipio – a oedd buchod y fro angen eu chwipio ar y caeau wrth dynnu aradr efallai?

Llarnog

Trown at waith yr Athro Gwynedd O. Pierce i ddatgelu hanes llwynogod Larnog - teimla mai enw cyntefig o'r Hen Saesneg yw 'Lawerce' [yr ehedydd neu 'lark'] + 'Knock' [bryncyn]. Bryn yr ehedydd felly yw'r Llarnog yn ôl O!

Sili

Fy nheimlad / damcaniaeth i oedd mai Si y Lli oedd yma ond, wedi gofyn i Gymry Cymraeg y pentref mae'n llawer yn fwy tebyg mae Abersili oedd enw'r pentref, a hynny'n deillio nid o enw afon ond yn hytrach Sant Tysiliog.

Pe bai eich grŵp cymunedol Cymraeg angen cymorth i ddechrau neu hybu prosiect yn ymwneud â'r iaith Gymraeg, mae Cynghrair Cymunedau Cymraeg yn edrych am grwpiau cymunedol i gefnogi gyda'u prosiect newydd "Un Wlad, Dwy iaith" sydd wedi ei ariannu gan Gronfa Loteri Cymru trwy Arian i Bawb. Cysylltwch!: David Wyn, Cynghrair Cymunedau Cymraeg, 16 Lewis Rd, Llandochau Fach, Penarth, Bro Morgannwg

'White Ribbon' flag raised

THE Llynfi Valley 20 project, coordinated by Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations, is supporting awareness of the White Ribbon campaign against domestic abuse, between November 25 – December 10.

It is asking people, clubs, organisations and businesses throughout the Llynfi Valley and Bridgend county borough to "speak out" and play their part in standing up to condemn domestic violence.

A White Ribbon flag was raised above Maesteg Town Council and the Mayor of Maesteg, Coun Jen Terry, said: "Maesteg Town Council is proud to fully support the White Ribbon initiative."

The flag raising was also attended by Chris Elmore, MP for Ogmore, Couns Ceri Reeves and Phil John, Angharad Williams from Calan DVS, and Joanne Maksymuik-King from BAVO.

Coun Reeves said: "It was excellent to see the White Ribbon flag flying in Maesteg for the first year, this year. This demonstrates commitment to speak up and stand out against domestic violence.

"Every act of violence is wrong and everyone, whether male or female, has the right to a life free of violence."

Mr Elmore said: "I'm incredibly proud to support the White Ribbon campaign and witness the white flag being raised above Maesteg Town Council. The international day for the elimination of violence against women and girls is an important reminder that violence still takes place and that in some countries it still isn't illegal.

"It's vital that people across the UK, and internationally, take a stand today and every day to show that violence of any kind is unacceptable in a modern society."

Conservative leader calls for Vale rail line upgrade

ACTION must be taken to address problems of overcrowding on train services in the Vale, South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies said this week.

"The Vale of Glamorgan Line is currently served by four trains an hour in each direction – with three to and from Barry Island and one instead going on to Rhoose, Llantwit Major and Bridgend. Passengers feel that the capacity on the line is not enough, with many having to stand, especially during peak hours," the Welsh Conservative leader stated.

"There have also been calls for services to run more frequently, with residents of Rhoose and Llantwit Major being restricted by the fact they are only served by one train an hour. This means many find themselves waiting around when they get to their destination."

Following a question from Mr Davies in the Welsh Assembly, the cabinet secretary for economy and infrastructure, Ken Skates, had confirmed that the Cardiff area signalling renewal scheme will enable more train services to operate on the line and he had held discussions regarding the availability of additional rolling stock.

Mr Davies said he welcomed this announcement, but that it would not amount to anything if it was not used as a springboard to improve comfort and convenience for passengers. The Welsh rail franchise, currently up for renewal, created an opportunity to deliver such improvements and it was vital this was taken.

This week, it had been suggested that old rolling stock from the Gatwick Express service could be leased to Arriva Trains Wales for use on West Wales to Manchester services. Mr Davies said this presented an opportunity for other stock to be used instead on the Vale line.

Mr Davies said: "Passengers from Llantwit Major, Rhoose, Barry and Dinas Powys regularly get in touch with me about problems with local rail services – especially relating to overcrowding and service frequency.

"I welcome the fact that the Signalling Renewal Scheme will enable more services to operate on the line, but we must make the most of this opportunity."

From homeless hounds to performing pooches

DOGS Trust Bridgend is searching for homes for four hounds who have turned out to be star performers to rival TV's Strictly Come Dancing.

Craig Revel 'Paw-wood', Len 'Goodboy', Darcey 'Bushy Tail' and 'Bono Tail-ioli,' will, staff hope, dazzle potential new owners.

Angela Wetherall, rehoming centre manager, said: "The Strictly dogs are an adorable bunch and definitely get top marks from us!"

She lists: Elvis (AKA Craig Revel 'Paw-wood'), a 15-month-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier with a lot of love to give! He is deaf but has been taught sign language previously. He will need experienced owners and who can continue with his reward-based training.

Elvis doesn't like to be left alone for long hours, so would prefer a home with someone who is around most of the day.

Greyhound Desmond (AKA Len 'Gooddog') is a sweet, laid back boy who enjoys a good run around, then loves to curl up and relax. Desmond loves a fuss and enjoys playing with dogs his own size. Desmond is happy to be left for a few hours at a time and could live with children aged 4 years old and above.

Poodle cross Chocco (AKA Darcey 'Bushey Tail') is a lively, fun loving character who loves to play with his toys. Once he gets to know you he's a very affectionate dog.

Terrier cross Rio (AKA 'Boneo Tail-ioli') is a nervous boy but loves his walks in the park and the beach. He is looking for a new owner who has owned dogs before and who will be around for most of the day.

Call Dogs Trust Bridgend on 0300 3030292 or visit dogstrust.org.uk.

CHURCHES PRAY FOR REFUGEES

ON November 14, more than 40 Porthcawl parishioners held a special service to pray for refugees fleeing their homes due to war, poverty and even 'climate change'.

Christians from six different churches in Porthcawl gathered for the service, which took place in Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic church.

The service was organised by Deacon Robert Coyne, alongside parish volunteer Jenny Worthington. Parishioners from a variety of different Christian backgrounds came together to offer prayers, make readings and 'share the experiences of refugees'. Money was collected for CAFOD, the Catholic Agency For Overseas Development, whose partners are working with people arriving in southern Europe.

The Welsh Ministers (Crichel Down) Considerations,
No's 2, 4 & 6 Bingle Lane, St Athan CF62 4LH
No's 1 & 2 Beggars Pound, St Athan CF62 4LE
The Bungalow, Cowbridge Road, St Athan CF62 4LH

The Welsh Ministers ("The Seller")
The following properties in St Athan "the Land"

DISPOSAL OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES:
2 Bingle Lane, 4 Bingle Lane & 6 Bingle Lane.
1 Beggars Pound & 2 Beggars Pound.
The Bungalow, Cowbridge Road.

The property forming part of the Welsh Government Residential portfolio at St Athan.

The properties have been declared surplus to requirements by the Seller and are being put forward for disposal. The Crichel Down Rules require Government Departments under certain circumstances to offer back surplus land to the former owner or successor in title or sitting tenant for sale at market value.

Former owners or their successors in title (or in priority to them, certain eligible residential sitting tenants with long term security of tenure) may be entitled to purchase the land formerly in their ownership (or in the case of sitting tenants, comprising their dwelling) at current market value subject to certain exceptions set out in the Rules which may be of application. If these exceptions were to be applied then there would be no entitlement to purchase any such land.

Assured Shorthold Tenants do not qualify as a sitting tenant for these purposes.

Should you consider that you are so entitled by reason of you being the former owner, their successor in title or a sitting tenant, and wish to purchase at current market value the land formerly in your ownership / the land comprising your dwelling, then please respond to this advertisement in writing within two months of the date of its publication indicating your intention to do so. If no such intentions to purchase which qualify under the Rules in these circumstances are received then it is the Seller's intention to sell the Land at the expiry of the two month period.

Please note that any entitlement of former owners or sitting tenants would be subordinate to and supplanted by the rights of any qualifying tenants under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987.

Former owners or their successors in title or sitting tenants responding to this advertisement should do so in person or through their solicitors or agents by writing to:

Anne Lawley, Project Support Executive, Welsh Government,
Marketing Suite Building 271a, Aerospace Business Park,
St Athan, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 4LZ.
Telephone: (01446) 753030 Email: anne.lawley@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Former owners, their successors in title or sitting tenants contacting the Seller should set out the asis for their claim that they are a former owner, successor in title or sitting tenant.

Ystyriaethau Gweinidogion Cymru (Crichel Down),
Rhifau 2, 4 a 6 Bingle Lane, Sain Tathan CF62 4LH
Rhifau 1 a 2 Beggars Pound, Sain Tathan CF62 4LE
The Bungalow, Cowbridge Road, Sain Tathan CF62 4LH

Gweinidogion Cymru ("Y Gwerthwr")
Yr eiddo canlynol yn Sain Tathan "y Tir"

GWAREDU'R EIDDO CANLYNOL:
2 Bingle Lane, 4 Bingle Lane a 6 Bingle Lane.
1 Beggars Pound a 2 Beggars Pound.
The Bungalow , Cowbridge Road.

Yr eiddo sy'n ffurfio rhan o bortffolio Preswyl Llywodraeth Cymru yn Sain Tathan.

Nid oes angen yr eiddo a enwir uchod bellach ar y Gwerthwr ac mae'r 5 eiddo yn cael eu cyflwyno i'w gwaredu. Mae Rheolau Crichel Down yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i Adrannau'r Llywodraeth, o dan amgylchiadau penodol, gynnig tir nad oes ei angen yn ôl i'r cyn-berchennog, yr olynydd mewn teitl neu'r tenant cyfredol i'w werthu iddynt am werth y farchnad.

Gall cyn-berchenogion neu eu holynwyr mewn teitl (neu mewn blaenoriaeth iddynt, denantiaid cyfredol preswyl cymwys penodol sydd â sicrwydd hirdymor o ddeiliadaeth) fod â hawl i brynu'r tir a fu yn eu meddiant (neu yn achos tenant cyfredol, sy'n cynnwys ei annedd) am ei werth presennol ar y farchnad yn amodol ar eithriadau penodol a nodwyd yn y Rheolau y gall gael eu cymhwyso. Pe byddai'r eithriadau hyn yn cael eu rhoi ar waith, ni fyddai unrhyw hawl i brynu unrhyw dir o'r fath.

Nid yw tenantiaid byrddaliol sicr yn gymwys fel tenant cyfredol at y dibenion hyn.

Os ydych yn ystyried bod gennych yr hawl oherwydd mai chi yw'r cyn-berchennog, ei olynydd mewn teitl neu'r tenant cyfredol, a'ch bod yn dymuno prynu'r tir a fu'n eiddo i chi / y tir sy'n cynnwys eich annedd am ei werth presennol ar y farchnad, ymatebwch yn ysgrifenedig i'r hysbyseb hon o fewn deufis o'r dyddiad cyhoeddi yn nodi eich bwriad i wneud hynny. Os na cheir bwriadau o'r fath i brynu sy'n gymwys o dan y Rheolau yn yr amgylchiadau hyn, yna bwriad y Gwerthwr yw gwerthu'r Tir ar ddiwedd y cyfnod hwn.

Noder y byddai unrhyw hawl cyn-berchenogion neu denantiaid cyfredol yn israddol ac yn ddarostyngedig i hawliau unrhyw denantiaid cymwys o dan Ddeddf Landlord a Thenant 1987.

Dylai cyn-berchenogion neu eu holynwyr mewn teitl neu denantiaid cyfredol sy'n ymateb i'r hysbyseb hon wneud hynny yn bersonol neu drwy eu cyfreithwyr neu eu hasiantiaid drwy ysgrifennu at:

Anne Lawley, Swyddog Gweithredol Cymorth Prosiectau,
Llywodraeth Cymru, Adeilad Ystafell Farchnata 271a,
Parc Busnes Aerospace, Sain Tathan, Bro Morgannwg CF62 4LZ.
Ffôn: (01446) 753030 e-bost: anne.jones@cymru.gsi.gov.uk

Dylai cyn-berchenogion, eu holynwyr mewn teitl neu denantiaid cyfredol sy'n cysylltu â'r Gwerthwr nodi sail eu hawl, sef eu bod yn gyn-berchennog, yn olynydd mewn teitl neu'n denant cyfredol.

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ASQUITH RESIGNS AND LLOYD GEORGE FORMS A WARTIME COALITION CABINET

PORTHCAWL AT WAR: December 1916

ON December 7 following Herbert Asquith's resignation, David Lloyd George became Prime Minister and by December 11 had formed his coalition Cabinet.

One increasing concern facing the country was the growing shortage of certain foodstuffs and their increase in price, as a consequence. Food shortages were becoming prevalent. Agricultural produce was less, due to many men from the farming industry having joined the armed services, and the poor wheat harvest of 1916 made bread difficult to obtain.

In some parts of the country, the potato crop failed. Therefore, the office of the Ministry for Food was formed. Lord Devonport was appointed its first minister which would prove not before time – as the situation deteriorated, in January 1917, as a result of the German government announcing unrestricted submarine warfare.

This meant that British merchant ships transporting food from overseas would be at risk of being sunk, worsening the shortages. Tragically, three Porthcawlians serving in the Mercantile Marine would lose their lives as a result of the U Boat attacks in 1917 – Chief Officer Angus Grant, Mate Richard Power and Engineer Officer William Lewis. Their stories will be told next year.

In Porthcawl that December, possibly as a result of specific food shortages, three local ploughmen, two farmers and a market gardener who applied for exemption to the town tribunal were given conditional exemption.

However, the dearth of wheat may be why a baker's application was denied. Bread was in such short supply that advice was given nationally on how to make bread out of turnips!

A Porthcawl baker who had already enlisted and had seen action at the Somme was Albert Pothecary, whose parents ran the New Inn, South Road (Sea Horse today). Mr and Mrs John Pothecary took great pride in their three sons who had all joined up voluntarily.

However, by December 1916 the eldest, Private John Osman Pothecary, 14th Welsh, had been brought home with a fever and the baker Private Albert Austin Pothecary, also 14th Welsh, had been wounded in the back and was invalided home.

Albert was not to return to the front, due to his severe injuries and finally received a Silver Badge in August 1917, two months before he was married to a Miss Hayes in Bridgend.

The third son, Private William Spurgeon Pothecary, was serving in France as a driver with the Royal Army Medical Corps. It is testament to the patriotism of this family when you read that even John Sr joined the local Volunteer Training Corps. Thankfully all three sons survived the war.

John Osman and his wife, Mary Jane, took over the New Inn public house from his parents in c1926; but sadly John died in 1940.

Albert worked for a short time as a cleaner at Porthcawl railway station, before transferring to cleaning carriages on GWR trains. Evidence suggests that Albert died in Staffordshire in 1963.

William, having aso worked for the GWR at Cardiff eventually emigrated with his wife Mabel to America on July 25, 1924, having bought their tickets to travel on the *SS Montrose* from George Sibbering, Well Street, Porthcawl. William and Mabel became American citizens in 1928.

In 1943 William, who was 48 years old by then, was drafted by the US Army for service at home. He died in 1977 at his home in Brooklyn, New York.

Another Porthcawlian who was in hospital in 'Blighty' at the Western Hospital, Alexandra Park, Stockport was Private Waldo Emerson Parry, Army Service Corps Mechanical Transport who lived at Maesygraig, Newton, next door to Hope Chapel. Waldo, the only son of four children, was born to William and Sarah Parry in 1896, Wick. By 1901 the family had moved to Porthcawl.

Is it a coincidence that his father, who was a retired Unitarian minister, named his son after American Ralph Waldo Emerson, the essayist and lecturer who led the transcendentalist movement in 19th century America, which arose out of the doctrine of the Unitarian church as taught at Harvard Divinity School?

The transcendentalists believed that people are at their best when truly 'self-reliant' and independent. Therefore, although William is recorded as running a newsagent on New Road, research proves that, actually, it was his daughter Enid, who owned the newsagent known as The Emporium, New Road (end house on Mackworth Road). This possibly suggests that in 1916, it was still not considered 'seemly' in Porthcawl for a woman to be the proprietor of a business.

Waldo's occupation is initially reported as being a newsagent's assistant; but by the time he enlists in the Army Service Corps Mechanical Transport Regiment at Cardiff, on November 6, 1915 he gives his profession as a 'motor driver.' Following his convalescence, Private Parry eventually returns to the Western Front, France on February 2, 1917.

After the war he becomes an accountant and marries Mary Phillips in 1928. In 1977, he is found living at 22, Danygraig Avenue where he dies on April 21, 1975 aged 78 years old.

The Porthcawl News December 1916 carried news of another Porthcawlian: Trooper Ernest Davis. Trooper Davis was reported as being at a base hospital in France, having been severely wounded in the head, on October 18 during the Somme campaign.

Trooper Davis of 17 Philadelphia Road had enlisted in the Glamorgan Yeomanry, but at the time of his injury was attached to the 2nd Battalion, South Wales Borderers. He had served in Ireland during the Easter Rising in April 1916 before being posted to France in the September.

Prior to joining up, Private Davis had worked as a gardener to a Mr JP Leat, South Road. On May 30, 1917, Ernest would, sadly, die of his wounds at the Howard Gardens Military Hospital, Cardiff and was buried in St John's churchyard, Newton.

Ernest was 22 years old. His parents, William and Annie Davis, led the mourners at the funeral who included Mr William and Mrs Elizabeth Walker, and their son William from Treherbert, Rhondda.

Elizabeth was the sister of Ernest's mother Annie: maiden name Gough. Elizabeth is the great grandmother of the writer. Her son William Walker, and his wife Annie, my grandparents, would later move to 17 Northways, Porthcawl in 1937; and through his love and ability at lawn green bowls, 'Billy' Walker would eventually become the chairman and, later, president of the Griffin Park Bowls Club.

Finally, December would prove a very harsh winter both home and abroad, yet the wives and mothers of Porthcawl servicemen were treated to a 'Merry Christmas' through the generosity of Mr TG Jones of 'Beach House,' Mackworth Road; ex-chairman of the Porthcawl Council.

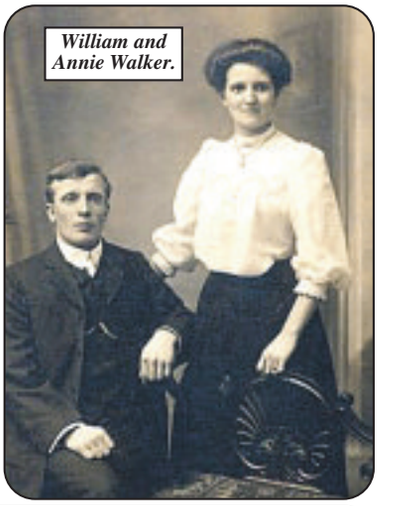
On Christmas morning, while Mrs TG Jones distributed joints of Christmas beef to their homes, "a gentleman dressed as Father Christmas went round Porthcawl, in a motor-car, distributing clothing, toys, nuts and oranges to soldiers' children."(Glamorgan Gazette December 29, 1916.)

Who was this Santa? Whoever he may have been, such kindness certainly helped to brighten the lives of soldiers' families; if only for a short time.

The town would suffer many more casualties in 1917.

CERI JOSEPH

Trooper Ernest Davies.



William and Annie Walker.

Maes y Graig, next door to Hope Chapel.

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Closing date for receipt of completed tender documents is 12 Noon on Friday 30 December 2016.

Contact:
Angela Bailey
Estates Section
The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry
CF63 4RU
Tel: 01446 709756
Email: ambailey@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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Ar gael ar sail prydlesi newydd am 5 mlynedd

- 19 Cammes Corner, Dinas Powys oddeutu 80 metr sgwâr gan gynnwys siop
- 13/15 Tennyson Road, Penarth oddeutu 77 metr sgwâr gan gynnwys 2 siop
- 21 Tennyson Road, Penarth oddeutu 54 metr sgwâr gan gynnwys siop

Gwahoddir ceisiadau am ddogfennau Tendro gan bartïon a ddiddeirir.

Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer cyflwyno dogfennau tendro cyflawn yw 12 Hanner Dydd, ddydd Gwener 30 Rhagfyr 2016.

Cysylltu:
Angela Bailey
Adran Ystadau
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
Swyddfeydd Cinesig
Heol Holton
Y Barri
CF63 4RU
Ffôn: 01446 709756
E-bost: ambailey@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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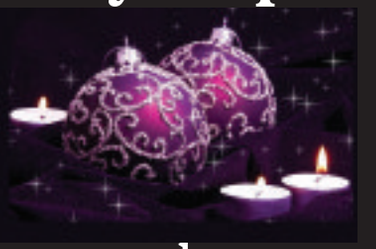
Christmas Memorial Service

TO REMEMBER LOVED ONES

Saturday 3rd December, 2016

St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry at 2pm

For further enquiries, or to register your loved ones on the roll of honour, please call ***01446 407962***



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CADOXTON & CARDIFF ROAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!

FROM 'ROOFTOP ATELIER' TO BARRY'S DEL BOY, CADOXTON'S NICHE BUSINESSES HAVE IT ALL!

NICHE businesses, filling a vital gap in the market place, add something special to an area.

In May, **Simply Stunning Gifts** opened in Palmerston above VFM. It stocks soaps, bath bombs, soap cakes, bath creamers, candles, and aromatherapy products with prices up to 50 per cent less than other gift shops.

People love a browse and it's the ideal place to pick up some gifts for the ladies in your family – or to find some lovely stocking fillers. There's free gift wrapping too.

To have a look at what the company does, go to: *www.letsgetsoapy.co.uk*; or look up Simply Stunning Gifts on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Professional costume designer Angharad Gamble has a passion for the art of sewing and passing that skill on to others, and she opened **Rooftop Atelier** at 51 Vere Street in July.

It's a sewing school providing help for beginners, and those more confident who want to try and make more complex garments.

Angharad worked on top TV productions like Merlin and Da Vinci Demons during a 15 year career as a freelance costume designer and still does commissions for TV and theatrical productions.

She said: "I have had a good range of people in terms of age, starting with my sister-in-law's niece who is 11 years old and a friend's granddaughter who is in her teens.

"It is lovely having people in learning to sew, and surprising themselves by how much they can improve."

Angharad has all the sewing machines, table space for cutting, fabrics, haberdashery and equipment you could possibly need. If people would like, they can hire studio space for cutting and working.

You name it, people can learn to make it – dresses, trousers with zips, pyjamas, cushion covers, home décor items, patchworking, the possibilities are endless.

Angharad is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and has an evening session on Tuesday from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

For more information, go to *www.rooftopatelier.co.uk*; or give Angharad a ring on 07491 676026.

Steve the owner of **Lovely Jubbly,** at 3 Church Road, Cadoxton, is a real Del Boy – but in the best possible way!

He explained: "I buy and sell second hand appliances and furniture. I loved Del Boy – hence the name of the shop.

"Everything is presented in as immaculate a condition as possible.

"We also do brand new beds at best prices. Singles start at £49, and doubles at £79 going up to around £500 to £600. Items are guaranteed too."

So whether its cookers, fridges, bookshelves, sofas, chairs, sets of drawers, stools – Steve's got something for you.

Steve is a Barry boy and attended Cadoxton Primary School, a stone's throw from his business. If there's an item you need, or want to sell, you can give him a ring on 07854 077 966.

A really popular arrival at 117 Barry Road is **Grizzlys Limited** run by Gareth McCulloch.

It provides meals, snacks and drinks, and when The GEM visited there was a steady stream of appreciative customers.

Gareth explained: "I opened at the end of July and everything has been ticking over just lovely. We've fitted in really well with the community and got a great rapport with local people."

Among his signature offerings are lamb and mint baguettes, and lasagne. He also does breakfasts, pasta dishes and home-made soups.

In fact, Gareth has dozens of fillings for baguettes – bacon and brie, cheese and red onion chutney, coronation chicken, and lots more.

Regulars love his £3.50 breakfast wrap with tea or coffee. And of course, there are cakes and cold drinks available with orders too.

Keep an eye out for Grizzlys on Facebook, it's going to be around for a long time to come.

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Turn at traffic lights at Dow Corning and head up Palmerston Road, turn left just before Waitrose, then follow the yellow VFM signs.
Set your sat nav to CF63 2XA

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NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - UPSTAIRS IN VFM

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ALL CANDLES, SOAPS, BATHBOMBS, GIFT SETS AND COSMETICS
REDUCED TO CLEAR

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£3 off RRP Now £14.99 (Large 26oz Jar)
Take 2 for £25
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PLENTY OF PARKING - HELPFUL FRIENDLY STAFF - FREE GIFT WRAPPING
Like and share our Facebook page for exclusive offers and great prize giveaways

CADOXTON & CARDIFF ROAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Roy's Toys on Main Street is a must visit shop at Christmas – with all the toys, cards, wrapping and Christmas accessories you could possibly need.

The shop has been making Christmas special for the children of Barry for 34 years. So what are the stand-out prezzies for children this year?

The cute little Shopkins characters, Hog Bikes, and a new game arrives soon, SpeakOut, the hilarious challenge game where people have to guess the phrase uttered when you have a mouthpiece in.

Carol also hosts a Scout Christmas post box. Deliveries are across the Vale and Cardiff. Posting deadline is Monday, December 5!

Welsh Window Systems, based at Shaftesbury House, Vere Street, Barry, is a family business established in 1987. It provides high quality replacement double glazed PVCu windows, doors, conservatories, replacement Fascia, Soffits and glass related products. It also specialises in repairing all PVCu, aluminium and timber windows, doors and conservatories. For information, go to: www.welshwindows.co.uk

Amer at PC 'n' Mobiles Repairs and Support at 4 Church Road, Cadoxton, is keen to raise awareness of cyber bullying and leaflets in the store provide top tips on keeping your child safe online.

Allan's Family Fish Bar run by Allan Payne is popular with all the locals in Cadoxton and delivers in Barry, Sully and Wenvoe. To order, tel: 01446 677997. Orders over £7.50, delivery is free.

FAMILY BUSINESSES AT THE HEART OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

CARDIFF ROAD, Cadoxton and Palmerston in Barry is home to lots of independent, family businesses with local people committed to providing the very best service to the public.

People want help on their doorstep and that's what they provide.

PC 'n' Mobiles Repairs and Support at 4 Church Road, Cadoxton, is a vital business for those who need technical support.

Amer, the owner, has a background in technology and working for top companies like Vodafone and Virgin Media, and he was the first trialist of cable modem broadband in Wales. He provides a repair and sales business in 'tech' products.

Keen to put something back into the local community, Amer said: "I want to raise awareness of cyber bullying. We've got leaflets in the store which provide top tips on keeping your child safe online."

In recent weeks there have been news stories about children being groomed online, and Amer is happy to provide free, impartial advice to parents or guardians who want to ensure their children are safe.

Don't forget, if you've got a problem with a computer, a tablet, mobile phone, a laptop or a console, Amer is there to help.

PC 'n' Mobiles Repairs and Support also stocks a huge range of accessories, so for all your 'tech' products, just drop in to pick up what you need.

The business also has a Data Protection licence so you know that you are in good hands.

For more information ring 01446 733721; email: info@pcnmobiles.co.uk; or visit, www.pcnmobiles.co.uk.

LAST ORDERS

The Curtain and Net Centre at 2 Church Road has a huge choice of samples for customers to browse through.

'Made to measure' take around three weeks, and 'ready made' 10 days, sothere is still time to get some rooms, or a particular room, sorted out in time for Christmas. The cut-off date for orders is Friday, December 2.

Allison of **Allison's Celebration Cakes** is well known throughout south Wales for her splendid cakes. She even provided the 30th anniversary cake for the TV series Casualty!

For people who love cake decoration and sugarcraft Allison has all the catering ingredients and tools required – sugar flowers, marzipan, cakeboards in lots of different colours, cutters, ribbons, edible and non-edible decorations, and cookie cutters.

Allison creates all sorts of wonderful cakes with unique designs for every kind of special celebration or event.

TOP NOSH!

Allan's Family Fish Bar has built up a huge following in Barry over the last 15 years. Allan relocated to Vere Street after running the Chippy on the Bridge in Ely.

He offers a varied menu, including fish and chips, Clark's pies, kebabs, curries and southern fried chicken. There's free delivery on orders over £7.50.

Lyndsay Ellis and his wife Nicola are well respected funeral directors at the heart of the community.

The Vale Funeral Service is based at 181 Court Road, Cadoxton, and the couple say they are privileged to accommodate the well known former family name 'W Spickett & Son' within the business. It is the oldest family funeral directors in Barry and was established in 1837.

Lyndsay explained: "Together with our parent company Pidgeons Of Cardiff, we provide a family ethos, serving local families to the highest standards.

"We are committed to providing a professional, personal and caring service to bereaved families at all times.

"From the moment people contact us, we are there for them and will stay with them, every step of the way during a difficult time.

"We aim to give care and compassion in dealing with the bereaved family requirements and appreciate that each funeral takes on a different role."

Lyndsay stressed: "No two funerals are the same as each loved one deserves a personal tribute."

The Vale Funeral Service provides a 24-hour service, seven days a week, 52 weeks of the year including bank holidays and Christmas Day. There is always a member of our staff available to talk to.

For more information, call or go to *www.thevalefuneralservice.co.uk*.

Steve's Barbers at 19 Vere Street, Cadoxton, is choc-full of Star Wars and football memorabilia. It makes a great backdrop and talking point as clients have their hair cut, and they love it. The shop is open six days a week: Monday and Tuesday 9am to 5pm; Wednesday 9am to 12 noon; Thursday 9am to 5pm; Friday 9am to 5pm; and Saturday 8am to 3pm. To book an appointment, call 01446 738931.

Steve wants to wish all his customers 'The compliments of the season'.

Allan's Family Fish Bar

A traditional Fish & Chip Shop
THAT DELIVERS
to Barry, Sully & Wenvoe.
Free Delivery Orders over £7.50
Minimum Order £4.50

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our customers

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We offer an Ironing service and dry clean agency, in addition to our fully equipped service launderette.

Over the busy season, our 'mobile laundry' collection and delivery service is a must. Simply arrange a collection and we will pick up your dirty washing and return it washed / dried / folded - very popular with busy mums and senior citizens.

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Christmas Entertainment 2016

Christmas Eve (Saturday)
'NO STATIC' DISCO
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Boxing Day (Monday)
DISCO AND KARAOKE
in the downstairs bar ***1:30pm onwards***
Bingo and tote ***7:30pm onwards***

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TICKETS NOW ON SALE £10 EACH
Fantastic vocal artist 'Dave Bowen'
7:30pm til late

New Years Day (Sunday)
'Bingo and tote as usual in the afternoon and evening

Book your celebration with us
We have a large function room plus 3 smaller rooms available to hire as well as a beer garden with BBQ area.

Child friendly and stair lift in situ for upper floors. All function rooms are available 7 nights a week, just pay for bar staff. Bingo and tote available every Sunday afternoon and evening (except Christmas day)

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CADOXTON & CARDIFF ROAD CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Pride in Barry says: Shopping locally has beneficial spin-offs

RHIAN LEES, the chairman of Pride in Barry, is encouraging local people to get 'shopping local'.

Rhian explained: "Cadoxton, Palmerston and Holton Road have so much to offer, from local independent traders offering the personal touch and local products, to many of the most recognised retailers and service providers on the high street.

"Especially at this time of year, when parking in Cardiff is at a premium, you can save time and money by doing your shopping locally, with free parking and plenty of great cafes to refuel.

"This year, Ice Central offers even more reasons to visit Holton Road.

"Shopping locally also has numerous spin-off benefits for the local economy, safeguarding local jobs and reducing the environmental impact of driving further afield."

People travel to VFM from as far away as the valleys and Cardiff because of its reputation for keeping prices as low as possible. Based in Palmerston, VFM has always got lots of meat deals and supplies all the other grocery essentials too.

There is still time to get an order in at Curtain and Net Centre, the deadline this year is Friday, December 2.

BELOW:
There's a real buzz in Ultimate Barbers at 4 Vere Street, Barry. When The GEM called last Friday, Donna and the team were hard at work as clients called in. The shop is open six days a week, normally 9am to 5.30pm, but on Friday it is open until 6pm, and on Saturday the hours are 8pm to 3pm. On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, it's appointments only. Call 01446 742244 to book your appointment.
Donna and the team wish their customers a very happy Christmas.

The Barrygate features the best in Bangladeshi cuisine. It is located at the top of Main Street. Give yourself a break from cooking for the evening and treat yourself to something from Barrygate!

ABOVE:
Allison of Allison's Celebration Cakes is well known for her impressive creations – and here is the latest a tiered Barry snowman.

www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Holy Cross Church tree concert captivates a packed audience

ON a crisp, cold Friday night, Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge hosted its Christmas Tree concert featuring Cowbridge Male Voice Choir and guests Elinor Parsons and Tom Hamilton.

The church was beautifully lit by a combination of the lights from over 50 Christmas trees and the subtle lighting of the church.

The evening began with the carol 'See Amid the Winter's Snow' sung by both the choir and a large audience.

The choir, under their musical director Shelley Thomas Brown, with Sandra Williams accompanying opened with 'Divine Brahma' from *The Pearl Fishers* followed by 'The Water is Wide', 'You Raise Me Up', and 'Rachie'.

This was followed by Elinor Parsons, who had captivated the audience with her performance at last year's concert. Elinor again produced a very polished and professional performance when she sang 'Bist Du Bei Mir'. She was then joined by Tom Hamilton to perform a duet of 'Falling Slowly'.

The choir returned to perform 'Cwm Rhondda', 'You are So Beautiful to Me', 'My Lord What a Morning' and ending the first half by singing Richter's *Creation*.

The second half of the concert commenced with all present singing the carol 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear' and the choir then continued with 'Gwahoddiad', 'Amazing Grace', 'He Ain't Heavy' and 'Pan Fo'r Nos Yn Hir'.

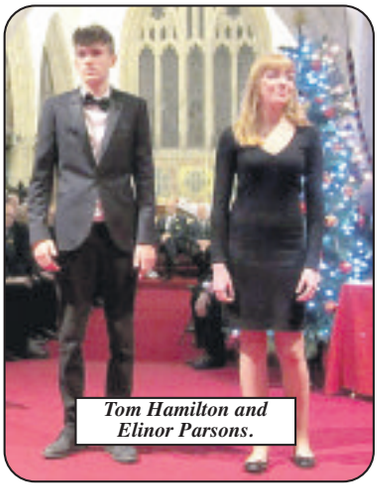
Following the first half performances, the audience warmly welcomed back Elinor and Tom. Elinor gave a beautiful rendition of 'Somewhere Only We Know' and was joined by Tom in singing that well known Christmas duet 'Baby It's Cold Outside', again performed to a high standard and fully appreciated by the audience.

It is encouraging to witness the emerging talents of young local performers and hopefully both Elinor and Tom will continue to expand their undoubted talent.

The choir's final set consisted of 'St Clement' and 'American Trilogy' and the final carol 'O Come All Ye Faithful' was sung by one and all!

This ended a memorable evening that was enhanced by the Christmas trees all around the church, which had been placed and beautifully decorated by local organisations. The majority of the trees will remain in place through the Christmas season.

FRANK MAYNARD



Tom Hamilton and Elinor Parsons.

Christmas tree glitter from St Clare's School

St Clare's pupils are ready for the Christmas Tree Festival.

YEAR-11 pupils from St Clare's Porthcawl spent an enjoyable afternoon decorating their special tree right in front of the pulpit at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl.

The Christmas Tree Festival is organised by The Rotary Club of Porthcawl and the St Clare's pupils belong to Interact Club, the school's branch of Rotary.

Pupils meet once a forthnight to support a local and international charity each year. Their chosen charity this year is Wales Air Ambulance.

Nicola Evans, a teacher at St Clare's said: "We are really proud of our Interact pupils. They develop very useful life skills in being active members of the local community."

Hurry! The Christmas Tree Festival ends on December 5 at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl.

ANGELA CELEBRATES TAKING THE DOUBLE!

A CARE home manager with the 'x-factor' has had a double success in major national awards.

Angela Rees, who lives in Bridgend, is in charge of the Ty Newydd care home in Roath, Cardiff, which cares for a small number of women aged 18 to 65 with mental health issues, and is known as 'an effective leader who is keen for her staff to progress so they can maximise the help they give to clients'.

It is this dedication to her job which saw Angela honoured twice at the 2016 Wales Care Awards held to recognise people who have the 'x-factor' in social care.

The awards, now in their 14th year, are in association with Care Forum Wales.

Angela said: "I'm honoured and delighted to receive these two awards in recognition of being part of an excellent team at Integra working together to achieve positive outcomes.

"It was a wonderful evening and an opportunity to meet with other award nominees and representatives of all the social sector.

"I was thrilled to receive the bronze award but also to be presented with such a prestigious award as Dignity on Care was the icing on the cake for me."

Rambling Merry Christmas

WITH the start of the Christmas celebrations in the Vale, switching on of the Christmas lights in towns and villages at' – this is a walk which is part of the self-guided walks that have been published by Valeways; see valeways.org.uk.

The ramble started in Wick, with a gentle walk along the lane, before crossing stile number one, which took us over fields and the railway line. The walk continued taking in the beautiful areas of Lampha and Colwinston. The weather was cold but it was a perfect day for walking. We stopped for a coffee and lunch on the way, before continuing our way through Llandow and eventually back to the start point, ending up at the Lamb and Flag to end the day – before making our way to join in the celebrations.

We would like to thank Valeways for opening up a path which had been previously blocked, the alternative route would have extended the walk .

The walk on Sunday, December 4 is a 7-8 mile moderate walk in the Aberthin area. Further information available on valeofglamorganramblers .org.uk or follow us on Facebook.

GWENDA FITZPATRICK

BUCK IS GOING TO BE A BIG BOUNCY BOY!

Our Dog of the Week is Buck, a very cute Husky cross Rottweiler, who is only a few months old, so is going to be a big boy!

Even though Buck is young, he is strong-willed, so will need lots of off lead exercise to burn off his energy. He can be a bit mouthy, which we will give you advice on how to deal with this correctly.

His forever family will need to have experience of big breeds and also give the time required for training, which is essential.

Buck is lots of fun to be around and will make a lovely companion. He will need to live with adults only, with visiting children over 14 years. He can live with another older, well adjusted dog.

If you are interested in Buck, you will need to register first at the centre, as Buck is currently in a foster home. Please call 01656 725219, or visit our website.

Contact: Rhiannon Chamberlain, at the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre, Bridgend.

LLAMAU APPEALS

HOMLESSNESS charity Llamau has declared Tuesday as 'Giving Tuesday' to "give people a chance to stop and think about those who are less fortunate in society, and to end homelessness in Wales today".

"Last year, Llamau supported 8,144 vulnerable people in Wales. We're open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, including Christmas Day, giving support to young people and women in Wales," a spokesman said.

Visit www.llamau.org.uk for more details.

Fostering veteran Rae Parsons finally stepping down after 25 years' service

AFTER two and a half decades of giving vulnerable young people a head start in life, Rachael (Rae) Parsons has finally retired – at the age of 87!

Rae, from Cefn Glas, has been taking in young people since November 1991, sharing her home and providing guidance and support via the Supported Lodgings scheme.

The Bridgend County Borough Council-run scheme sees providers offer accommodation in a safe and supportive home environment to young people aged 16-21 who are leaving residential or foster care. The aim of the scheme is to help the young people develop the practical skills and emotional stability they need to live independently.

After a stint in the Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF), Rae settled in Bridgend, where she married and had four daughters. With the loss of her husband, and the fact that all four daughters had left home, Rae found herself wanting to do something with her spare time, a spokeswoman reports.

One day, Rae saw an advertisement looking for people to welcome students into their homes and decided to apply. Soon after Rae applied, it became apparent that at the time the scheme was specifically for young offenders. However, this didn't deter her and she continued with her application.

The 'Raes' of this world are few and far between, and as the number of looked-after people in Bridgend county borough who are over the age of 16 continues to increase, more caring people are needed to come forward and provide a home environment and support.

"However, many people don't consider providing placements for young people, holding the stereotypical view that they will be troublesome," said a spokesperson.

Rae disagrees that all young people in care are naughty or hard work. She firmly believes that the young people who she has supported have positively changed her life just as much as she changed theirs.

Rae said: "The youngsters who have stayed with me have been a lot of fun and they've kept me young. At the end of the day, they are human beings who simply need someone they can talk to, someone who cares and can give them direction. There is good in every young person, you just need to find it."

Rae is proof that the supported lodgings scheme can be extremely beneficial for young people, particularly when they are shown support, respect and care.

ABOVE: Stephen Jones, social worker for Bridgend County Borough Council; Rachael Parsons, and Jade.

Rae continued: "Quite often I bump into the people who stayed with me over the years. It's always wonderful to see them and hear of their successes – they always say thanks for my support. Several still pop by to the house for a cuppa or to have tea. The majority of them work, have settled down or run their own home, which makes what I do all worthwhile. There's nothing more rewarding than knowing that I have helped the young people to improve their lives."

Jade, one of the young people who lived with Rae and is still in touch with her to this day, cannot speak highly enough of her, citing her support and guidance as the main reason she settled down and didn't go off the rails.

Jade said: "Rae was so welcoming, understanding, lovely, caring, and always thought about how I was feeling. In all the time I was around the care system, Rae's home was the only place I ever felt settled. That was down to Rae, no one else! Instantly, Rae came across as a firm friend and someone who I could tell anything, and that did mean a lot.

"Rae is like a second mum. She's amazing and the fact that years later, people are still going out of their way to go up to her to express their gratitude is testament to her hard work, commitment and dedication. That advert changed her life, my life and many more."

It's clear that Rae has absolutely loved being a Supported Lodgings provider for well over two decades, even during the more challenging times.

"It wasn't always smooth but the key is not to back down when faced with challenges, and lay down ground rules right from the beginning," Rae said. "Discipline doesn't do any harm and actually, most needed it. My military background definitely gave me an advantage though.

"Whenever a new person would come to live with me, I would always be apprehensive, as would they. However, I recognised how hard it was for the young person as they were coming to live in someone else's house. Sometimes you've got to put yourself in their shoes and definitely not judge.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it and wouldn't change anything because I love having kids in the house. If I had to go back 25 years, I would still take young people into my home, even the more challenging ones. The support I've received from my social worker has been absolutely fantastic. It's been a wonderful experience and if I'm honest, I'm gutted to retire."

"Supported Lodgings provides a stepping stone towards independence and has provided many young people with positive outcomes as a direct result of the scheme," reported a spokesperson for the council.

The council's cabinet member for children's social services and equalities, Coun Hailey Townsend, said: "Supported Lodgings offers vulnerable young people the stability and loving homes which are needed for them to progress onto adulthood and reach their full potential.

"We are extremely grateful for everything Rae has done for the Supported Lodgings scheme. She deserves recognition for everything she has done. She is a special person who must be congratulated for the dedication she has shown over the last 25 years.

"Rae has given many young people the opportunity to change their lives – she taught them life skills, but more importantly she listened, cared and never judged. We wish her well on her retirement.

"We always need more people to become Supported Lodgings providers so that we can continue to offer this important scheme."

SULLY MAKE SLOW START TO INDOOR BOWLS SEASON

SULLY Indoor Bowls Club Championship Team have made a poor start to the new season, losing both opening games.

The first was on Saturday, October 8 away to Port Talbot, who were relegated last season but were always going to be formidable opponents, and next home to Newport.

Sully v Port Talbot

THE Port Talbot game came early in the new season with many Sully players short of practice and with Port Talbot fielding a number of top class players.

After five ends, Port Talbot had gone into a useful 17-shot lead (37–20). Unfortunately, the rink of John Best, Alan Rees, Peter Hocking and Skip Carl Best were up against a Port Talbot rink skipped by renowned International bowler John Price and were 12–0 down.

As the game progressed, Port Talbot continued to pressurise but two Sully rinks skipped by Fred Phillips and Matt Gershenson were both managing to hold a four-shot advantage over their opponents leading 12–8 and 10–6 respectively after the 10th end.

The other Sully rinks skipped by Dave Curtis, Chris Ackland and Ken McLeod were now competing well but at this stage Port Talbot still held an 18-shot lead, mainly due to the rink of John Price, who were playing brilliant bowls increasing their advantage over Best's rink to 19–1.

Through ends 11–15, Port Talbot increased their advantage to 28 shots, with the Sully rinks skipped by Ackland, McLeod and Curtis losing ground to their opponents behind by seven, 11 and four respectively, while Best clawed five shots back, and with Phillips and Gershenson remaining ahead four shots apiece, the overall score now stood at 69–97 in favour of the home side.

Over the closing ends Sully continued to struggle and the rinks of McLeod and Curtis lost out to their opponents by 16 and 12 respectively, with Best's rink always under the cosh finally losing by 20 shots.

Ackland's rink fought back well eventually going down by just one shot 19–20, leaving the rinks of Charles Coomber, Graham Brown, Paul Webley and Fred Phillips to win by four along with the rink of Phil Gershenson, John Jones, Graham Cogbill and Matt Gershenson scraping home by two shots as the only Sully winning rinks.

Port Talbot gained 18 points to Sully's four points, winning overall by 43 shots (97–140). **FP**

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Are you claiming housing benefits from your local council? If you are, did you know that any change in your circumstances must be reported to the council directly! Simply reporting changes to other organisations where you might claim from is not enough.

Changes in Circumstance that you MUST report to us

Changes in your income, your partner's income, or the income of any other adults in your property

Changes to your capital

Changes in your property details

Changes to your household

How to tell us: Write: Email: Telephone: In person:

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

A fyddwch yn hawlio budd-dâl tai oddi wrth eich cyngor lleol? Os felly, a wyddech ei bod yn rhaid i chi roi gwybod i'r cyngor yn uniongyrchol petai eich amgylchiadau'n newid? Nid yw'n ddigon sôn wrth sefydliadau eraill sy'n rhoi cymorth i chi.

Y Newidiadau Yn Eich Amgylchiadau Y Mae'n RHAID I Chi Eu Datgan

Newid yn eich incwm, incwm eich partner neu incwm oedolion eraill sy'n byw yn eich eiddo

Newid yn eich cyfalaf

Newid ym manylion eich eiddo

Newid yn eich teulu

Cewch roi gwybod i ni drwy: Ysgrifennu: E-bost: Ffonio: Alw heibio:

www.bromorgannwg.gov.uk

RHOOSE & ST. ATHAN
for a Cosy Village Christmas

'Rhoose issues its seasonal invitation to help you this Christmas'

by Coun Jeff James

I HOPE people are looking forward to the pre-Christmas period in Rhoose, when we start to get that sense of festive urgency and fun.

Make sure you order your turkey, buy your presents, get spruced up and be ready to have fun with Christmas parties and a very warm welcome from the traders of Rhoose!

There is a seasonal invitation to enjoy all our pubs and restaurants. Businesses in Rhoose are known for their warm welcome and their great service.

We must not forget the true meaning of Christmas, and here is the list of local church services:

Keep an eye out for these special services:

4pm Sunday, December 11, Messy Christingle, St Peter's.

6pm, Sunday, December 18, nine lessons and carols St Peter's.

5pm, Christmas Eve, December 24, Crib Service St Peter's.

11.30pm Saturday, Christmas Eve, December 24, Midnight Eucharist, St Curig's.

10am Christmas Day, All Age Christmas Day celebration eucharist St Peter's.

A happy Christmas from the people Rhoose, and don't forget all the things it has to offer!

Christmas time means a visit to Coffee Time and Glenys serving up a festive speciality like a 'hot roast turkey, stuffing and cranberry' baguette!

The Six Bells is looking foward to a 'cracking festive season'

Pipelle has become an Alladin's Cave of Christmas gifts.

Deano of Deano's Barbers, pictured with Ciaran, said: "We really appreciate the continued support and custom we've enjoyed in 2016, and look forward to welcoming existing, and new, customers, in 2017."

People love the cosy atmosphere at the Six Bells, Penmark, over Christmas time.

THERE'S nothing like the traditional Welsh country pub at Christmas – and the Six Bells in Penmark hits all the right notes, with great food, a cosy atmosphere, entertainment, and a function room for special events.

When The GEM highlighted The Six Bells in its dining feature it scored top marks for hospitality and food.

Owners Mark and James are great hosts and have developed a reputation that draws people, not just from the Vale, but Cardiff and further afield.

James said: "We're looking forward to a cracking festive season."

Christmas Day is fully booked, but during the week, daytime and evenings are still available (*telephone 01446 710 229 for bookings*).

The Six Bells is an ideal, relaxing venue for office lunches too and has ample car parking. If you would like a menu sent to your business, just email *mail@sixbellspenmark.co.uk*.

For more information on The Six Bells, Penmark (CF62 3BP) go to www.sixbellspenmark.co.uk.

FONTYGARY INN FESTIVE FUN

THE Fontygary Inn is a pub blessed to be all things to all men and women!

From a leisurely coffee on a busy morning, to a lunchtime pint with pals, or an evening's entertainment – live music, quizzes and even karaoke – it really does live up to the cliche of "something for everyone".

And the fun doesn't stop at Christmas.

Patrons Kevin and Kerry Eade – celebrating their 10th Christmas at the Fontygary Inn – and team are pulling out the stops this year, to make sure everyone has a cracker of a Christmas.

All the traditional favourites are on the festive menu from turkey and all the trimmings smothered in rich homemade gravy to (for any vegetarians in your party) a vegetable nut roast made with prime apricots, peanuts, almonds and walnuts topped with mellow goat's cheese.

Christmas Day is strictly drinks only and no food is served that day.

For those looking to go a little "continental" for Christmas, the Fontygary Inn's own beef Stroganoff is a dream.

For bookings, call 01446 711221.

The people of St Athan enjoy the community spirit – and its very special atmosphere at Christmas time

ST ATHAN is a small village in the Vale with a population of around 5,000 people, a small amount of shops, a church that dates back to the 13th or 14th century and two public houses.

For me, growing up in St Athan was a joyous time, attending the local primary school, which was built in the mid 1960s, going to ballet classes in the old community hall which over the years has been used as a polling station and for playgroups and parties.

Like me, several generations of families still live in the village, enjoy the community spirit, rural views and its special atmosphere at Christmas.

Aimee Wilson

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Celebrate Christmas & New Year with family & friends at the Fontygary Inn
FESTIVE MENU now being served.
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NEW YEARS TICKETS on sale at £7.50 to include disco & buffet.
Don't miss the traditional BOXING DAY RACE NIGHT from 8pm
OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY (Drinks only) 11am-2pm.
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT every Friday & Saturday.
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RHOOSE & ST. ATHAN
for a Cosy Village Christmas

BUSINESS PEOPLE WHO STAND THE TEST OF TIME!

RHOOSE is blessed with local business people who have invested their futures in the local community and year after year provide excellent products and high standards of service.

At Christmas time, when we are all so busy, they are a real life saver.

Take **Coffee Time** in the centre of the village run by Glenys.

High streets are benighted these days with cookie-cutter, chain coffee shops or ones which the epithet 'kitsch' was invented.

How pleasant it is to visit an independent cafe that has no pretensions and whose mission statement seems to be: *"To serve tasty homemade food, and drinks, in a friendly environment."*

And that's just what Glenys and her staff do at Coffee Time on Fontgary Road. The smell of freshly-ground coffee assails one's senses on entering, to be followed swiftly – on the writer's visit – by the scent of spiced lattes and the waft of hot roast turkey, stuffing and cranberry baguettes.

A Christmassy heaven in one breath!

Coffee Time, which also caters for functions, has lots of loyal regulars who find it the most convenient place to meet up with a friend or have a relaxing break in a busy day.

Open from 9am until 4pm, one could sit in the convivial surroundings watching the world go by, reading a newspaper or listening to the gentle hum of the chit-chat around.

Glenys would like readers of The GEM to know that Coffee Time is open as usual up to and including Friday, December 23, but closes from then until January 2.

She welcomes customers and friends, old and new, to pop in for a bite before Christmas.

Coffee Time is at 21 Fontgary Road, Rhoose, Barry, CF62 3DS; Tel: 01446 711600.

APPRECIATION

Deano's Barber Shop was established in Rhoose in 1999 by Dean Chamberlain – the grandson of Michael Olympios, owner of Michael's Hairdressing Salon/Barbershop of Cardiff Docks and Clifton Street between 1956 and 1990.

Deano's is a traditional barber shop running a walk-in service, open six days a week, offering reduced rates for children and senior citizens.

Deano said: "We really appreciate the continued support and custom we've enjoyed in 2016, and look forward to welcoming existing, and new, customers, in 2017."

Deano's Barber Shop is at 7 Fontygary Road, CF62 3DR. Tel: 01446 710434 or visit Facebook.

A familiar and welcome sight on Fontygary Road now, and all the more so at Christmas, is **Pipelle**.

It is a real treasure for a neighbourhood already blessed with a variety of stores, shops and cafes.

Pipelle is not only a post office, but also a greengrocers, gift shop and – joy of joys – an old-fashioned sweet shop.

Jars of mint humbugs, coconut mushrooms, millions, liquorice and much more grace the shelves.

Peter Stewart, who runs the store, said that gift jars are an increasingly popular present for children aged three to 93!

"We will also make up, and deliver free of charge, fruit and veg boxes for customers," said Peter.

The advice, as with buying stamps and posting one's gifts, is to plan early for Christmas.

Peter also reminds readers that normal opening hours are 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturdays –including Christmas Eve – are from 8.30am to 1pm.

Pipelle Old Village Stores and Post Office, is at 55-55A Fontygary Road, Barry, CF62 3DT. Tel: 01446 719243; also visit Facebook.

Three key phrases that have been adopted in foodie circles are "provenance", "farm local" and "shop local".

And for those lucky enough to have one, a neighbourhood butcher is the best way to fulfill those ideals.

Barratt's Fine Meats, on Fontygary Road in Rhoose, is an exemplar of its kind.

In business for more than 40 years, the shop has a range of meat and poultry tempting enough to convert a vegetarian – and everything is labelled with the farm from where it came.

THE HIGHWAYMAN TRULY DELIVERS!

THE HIGHWAYMAN in Nurston village, just to the south of Cardiff Airport, has enjoyed nearly a full year since its refurbishment, and according to Wayne Morgan it has been its very best!

"Better than ever, in fact," said Wayne, the manager.

"We regularly have groups coming from Carmarthenshire and Gloucestershire for lunch and dinner, so our reputation has spread, fairly widely, by reputation and word of mouth."

Good news clearly travels far and fast, and to such an extent that Christmas Day is fully booked.

However, the extensive menu, revamped for December, but retaining the famed 'Condemned Man's' meal (40 ounces of meat) remains on offer, alongside the 'Ultimate Condemned Man's Meal' (60oz of meat), both of which come with a salad garnish.

The New Year's Eve party should be a hoot.

Wayne began at the Highwayman Inn 15 years ago as head chef, and in January, celebrates his sixth anniversary of being in charge.

He noted that some things have stayed the same, while others have changed.

"We still offer generous portions and pride ourselves on using the best ingredients. As for trends in eating... Fish has become more popular and there is more of it on the new menu, and vegetarian food has really taken off in the last 10 or so years, although you still get the occasional wag saying 'I like vegetarian food... with a steak'."

ABOVE: The Highwayman goes from strength to strength.

The bar, too, offers a range of ales, wines and spirits to make for a very 'Merry Christmas'.

Speaking of spirits, legend tells of a mysterious grey lady seen about the building. However, with the proximity of the Highwayman Inn to the airport, one is far more likely to see a British Airways 747 or A380 than a spectral female.

The Highwayman Inn offers great food and a great atmosphere all year round, just a little more so at Christmas.

The Highwayman Inn, Port Road, Nurston, Rhoose, CF62 3BH. Tel: 01446 719105, visit www.highwayman-pub.com or go to Facebook.

Your journey to better beauty begins NOW!

VALE Laser Clinic and Tathan Beautique are getting into the Christmas spirit with our Jane Iredale products being very popular for Christmas parties and gifts.

We have recently introduced MoroccanTan with infused Argan oil, which is amazingly natural and lasts for between seven and 10 days.

We have 'TanTastic' Fridays throughout December for you to get party ready.

Carly's Gelish nail art is amazing and appointments are filling up fast. Book now to avoid disappointment.

Winter is a great time of year to start your permanent hair removal journey.

With seven out of 10 women experiencing male-pattern facial hair growth, it's time to stop hiding behind the scarves and read how our client Lisa has regained her confidence after just one treatment, in our blog *www.valelaserclinic.co.uk/blog/amazing*.

If you are looking for a great Christmas present, our gift vouchers can be for specific treatments or monetary values so your loved one can choose between treatments, skin care and JI products.

To keep up to date with all our news and New Year offers, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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Available Monday - Saturday
FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHTS INCLUDE ENTERTAINMENT.
3 COURSE MENU
Monday - Thursday £24.95
Friday - Saturday £26.95
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Normal Menu available for diners until 9pm.
From 9pm onwards includes disco & karaoke plus nibbles until late.
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We look forward to seeing you during the festive season.
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CF62 4PF. 01446 750880

Point to Point community mourns Vivian John Hughes

OBITUARY BY BRIAN LEE

THE sudden death of former hunt-racing owner, trainer and rider Vivian John Hughes, of the Llangeinor Hunt, will come as a shock to many enthusiasts.

Vivian, a much-loved partner of Lisa, a former point-to-point rider herself, and a devoted father of Ben and a much-loved son and brother, will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Vivian rode his first winner *Ansam* in the adjacent hunts' race at the Ystrad Hunt Point-To-Point back in the 1990s. He was 19-years-old and *Ansam*, a 20-1 outsider of three, was the only horse to complete the course.

It was at Chepstow racecourse that Vivian won the Russell Baldwin and Bright Hunter Chase on that good mare *Doubting Donna*. Vivian, a builder by trade, on another memorable occasion rode three winners at the Tivyside Hunt Steeplechases. He took the Men's Open on *Doubting Donna* and both divisions of the Confined Maiden on *Miss Millbrook* and *Glen Nova*. *Miss Millbrook* went on to win the inaugural Dunraven Bowl Novices' Hunter Chase at Chepstow in 1996, with Evan Williams in the saddle.

However, most hunt-racing fans will associate Viv with his *Primaticcio* which won (among other races) the 2002 Horse & Hound Cup at Stratford under Ogmore's Christian Williams.

Kumuda, *Pay U Cash* and *Sea Haitch Em* are just three other point-to-pointers that Vivian, an unassuming man, will be associated with.

Jack Rowsell of Pontypridd whose son Robert used to ride against Vivian in point-to-points said: "It is so sad. Vivian was a good horseman and he was a great friend of my son Robert. We will miss seeing him around the shows."'

BRIAN LEE

Vale under-15s are too strong for north Walian opponents

Saturday saw the Vale under-15s travel to Bangor for their first away match of the season, against RGC Schools West.

The game kicked off slightly later than anticipated, to allow the pitch to thaw. RGC won the toss and changed ends, hoping to benefit from the low winter sun in the eyes of the Vale.

However, it wasn't long before wing Matt Oddy crossed the line for the Vale's first try, converted by Ioan Cooper.

A second try from Tom Ap John, swiftly followed, again converted by Ioan.

The Vale's domination began to show. Benji Williams was soaring to take RGC's lineout ball, the forwards took the ball on before Lewys Williams darted over the line for the third try for a 19 – 0 scoreline.

The fourth try was a gem. RGC attacked deep into the Vale half before the ball was turned over and wing forward Iestyn Galton shot down the wing to score under the posts for a half time score of 26 – 0

The second half began with the Vale enjoying the sun at their backs, playing some lovely expansive rugby, and they extended their lead with two tries from Benji Williams, the second of which saw the No 8 cross the line carrying a RGC defender.

Prop Christian Brooke scored the seventh try, running in from the 10 metre line, Ioan Cooper converting.

The final two tries came from the Vale wingers. They featured powerful running from Will Hardy, who scored on the left (converted by Cooper), then another came from the mercurial Jake Thomas scoring on the right.

The final try took the Vale over 50 points and the referee signalled the end of the game.

Our thanks as always to the parents and coaches for their support, and to our sponsor Apricot Online. Also to Bangor RFC and RGC for their hospitality, good luck to them for the rest of the season.

Thanks also to Liza Williams for her match photography. The Vale's next game is a local derby against Cardiff Schools on December 11.

Follow our progress on twitter @ValeSchoolsU15

MV

Photographs by Lisa Williams.

Barry Town United look forward to Cup final against The New Saints

BARRY Town United will challenge The New Saints in the Nathaniel MG Cup Final on Saturday, January 21, after the record-breaking Welsh Premier League champions confirmed their place in the national final with a 1-0 win at Connah's Quay Nomads last Tuesday evening.

Scott Quigley's ninth-minute strike proved the match-winner for Craig Harrison's unbeaten Saints, seven days after their original meeting at the Deeside Stadium was dramatically abandoned with the score at 2-2, a casualty of severe fog.

Despite a gallant effort from the Nomads, the result in north Wales now sets up a tantalising showdown between the record-breaking eight-time winners and the former five-time holders, to be held at a venue to be confirmed.

With everyone at Jenner Park looking forward to the club's first appearance in the final since 2001, the Town remain in contention to challenge for Welsh League Division One honours and bolstered their title aspirations with a solid 2-0 win over Taffs Well the following weekend.

Jordan Cotterill, whose powerful free-kick against Carmarthen secured Barry's final appearance, stroked home the first half opener, with strike partner TJ Nagi finishing the job after the break, side-footing home after good work from teammate Tyrell Webbe.

However, Gavin Chesterfield's team could not maintain their winning ways at Caerau Ely this past Saturday afternoon, conceding an 87th-minute equaliser at Cwrt-Yr-Ala, after James Dixon had broken the deadlock for the Barrians.

With Goytre drawing 2-2 at Haverfordwest, Barry remain six points adrift of the Welsh League Division One leaders, with a pair of games in hand.

The Town will be without a first team fixture this weekend, following the postponement of their home game with Cambrian & Clydach, with Webbe and defender Chris Hugh set to represent Wales in the inaugural Home Nations Championship of Futsal.

Finally, the club would like to extend its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Bryn Matthews, who passed away recently.

A keen Barry supporter, Bryn had been a familiar face at Jenner Park for many seasons, after attending his first match in 1948.

AC

Vale Bridge club results

THE results for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for November 28 are as follows:

First, Geoff Tinkler and John Henson (61.61 per cent); second, Phil Feldman and Tony Disley (60.12); joint third, Simon and Debbie Richards, and Julia Evans and Cherry Cadwallader (55.95). **LE**

Cowbridge under-16s just edged out in quality game

Cowbridge under-16s came up just short in a pulsating away fixture against a very strong Pontypridd team.

Cowbridge were once again down to 14 boys, but to be fair to the Pontypridd coaches, they offered to play the game with only 14 too.

Both teams have been extremely well coached over the years and have demonstrated a high skill level accompanied with pace and strength.

On Sunday, Ponty were the first on the score sheet with an early penalty just inside the Cowbridge 10-metre line.

Cowbridge were the first to cross the white wash with a classic breakaway try. Jack Little made a great tackle in midfield, first to the break down was Ben Jones, the open-side flanker, who made a text book turnover.

From the quick ball Jake Cannon ran hard, and the ball passed through a series of hands before Jack Dixon with a brilliant side step, stood the Ponty full back up and outpaced the covering defence to score. The try was not converted.

Cowbridge were now in full flow and put Ponty under a huge amount of pressure. From a scrum just inside the Ponty half, I Williams sniped down the blind side and off loaded to R Williams, who burst through Ponty's first line of defence and was caught five metres short of the line.

He off-loaded for Dixon but the touch judge adjudged that Williams had just put his foot in touch before he managed to off load the ball.

Ponty came back at Cowbridge and through their much bigger pack, kept the Cowbridge team in their own 22 for a long period. Time after time Ponty picked the ball up, keeping the play tight and made gains towards the Cowbridge line.

After five minutes the Cowbridge defence succumbed and Ponty forced their way over the line and converted the try. **Pontypridd 10 – Cowbridge 5**.

Straight from the kick off Cowbridge managed to secure a line out just inside the Ponty 22. Brilliant clean ball off the top of the line out by Iestyn Fenn allowed I Williams to get his backs moving. A training ground move put Harry Ridge clear and he scored Cowbridge's second try of the game under the posts without a hand being laid upon him. I Williams converted.

Cowbridge were now dominant and from a breakdown just outside the Ponty 22, I Williams sniped down the blind side and broke through . He was clear and about to touch the ball down, when the referee blew up. Then, in a decision which left the crowd confused, the referee awarded Cowbridge a scrum.

Cowbridge quickly scored their third try of the half. Dixon and Ridge combined in midfield and Dixon went clear to score under the posts. I Williams converted. **Pontypridd 10 – Cowbridge 19**.

Ponty came back at Cowbridge and, with simple passing along the backs, scored in the corner, but could not convert.

In an incredibly tense second half points were hard to come by for both teams. Ponty kept the ball tight while Cowbridge tried to move the bigger pack around with some excellent back play.

Both defences were holding tight as the game approached the final five minutes. With players getting frustrated by basic mistakes, tempers were starting to get frayed.

Following a number of tap penalties, Ponty forced their way over the line to take the lead with minutes remaining. They converted to make the score **Pontypridd 22 – Cowbridge 19.**

Cowbridge threw everything they had at Ponty and dragged the Ponty defence from one side of the field to the other and back again.

E Thomas threw a great pass off his right, to put Dixon clear. With the covering defence haring across the pitch, Dixon passed to Lewis Hawke on the right wing. Hawke stepped inside one defender and powered over the line, only for the referee to decide he had been held up.

From the resulting five metre scrum, the larger Ponty pack managed to disrupt the Cowbridge ball and, following a knock on, the referee brought the game to an end. An excellent game of 14-a-side rugby played by two very good teams.

Full time: Pontypridd 22 – Cowbridge 19.

GJ

Dinas Ladies hit six of the best in trip to Rhiwbina

RHIWBINA LADIES 0 - 6 DINAS LADIES

The villagers continued their fine start to the season and now remain unbeaten going into a busy December following a very impressive display of attacking football and not conceding one goal in November.

After 20 minutes it looked like it was going to be one of those days as Laura Murray, Laura Lewis, Molly Chapman and Nao were all guilty of not finishing when it looked harder to miss.

Lewis had the ball in the back of the net but was adjudged to be off-side. This seemed to be the early pattern as Rhiwbina played a high line, catching the pacey forwards out time and time again.

Murray showed the composure that she possesses and added two quick goals to steady the ship.

Lewis and Chapman both tested the home side's defence with their pace, which was proving too much to handle. Jo Jones and Samantha Saunders had control of the middle as they were well on top in that battle.

In the second half the girls from Dinas carried on their high tempo approach and soon found themselves again guilty of missing simple chances when players were crying out for a simple square ball. Gema Crowley had a solid 30 minutes in the 9 role and was unlucky not to score.

Demi Bounds soon found herself on the end of a brilliant cross but managed only to strike the post.

Moments later though, Bounds made sure as she coolly finished. Jodi Bowles, Nao and a collector's piece from Jo Jones gave the visitors a more respectable score line of 6-0 as they all took their chances.

The defence has grown in strength with every game and they proved too strong for the Cardiff team as they held strong to the counter attacks. Dinas never took their foot off the gas and Chapman was like a girl possessed as her unselfish running and desire to win was there to see.

The ladies have certainly put Dinas back on the map this season and the spirit amongst them all is a credit to their hard work at training.

Players of the match: Samantha Saunders and Molly Chapman.

Lee Saunders

IN AND AROUND **Bridgend** IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

Take advantage of the free weekend parking to get to know more about Bridgend

A craft market in Bridgend town centre proved popular last week, and continues until this Saturday, December 3.

BRIDGEND doesn't always get the best press, with arguments about pedestrianisation and other issues, but the town and surrounding area remains an important area of economic activity, with plenty of local businesses plying their trade successfully and doing what counts most – keeping their customers satisfied.

The run up to Christmas is important for almost every business, and it is important to the image of the area, and this year, Bridgend town centre has made great efforts.

Last Saturday (November 26) was Bridgend's big curtain raiser with Santa and his reindeer arriving, and the Christmas lights switched on in the early evening, with a craft market in Caroline Street.

In fact, the craft market is there all week long until Saturday, December 3.

On Saturday, December 10, the elves will be out in force for the 'Elfsteddfod' in Adare Street, a day of family fun with workshops, face painting and an attempt at a world record for the longest elf conga!

The organisers say that the first 1,000 people to turn up dressed in red and green will each receive an free elf hat!

Finally, on every Saturday up to and including December 17, you can support local charities and take your little one to meet Santa by visiting Santa's Grotto in Carnegie House (the old library) in Wyndham Street, 10am-4pm.

As well as Santa, there will be free craft tables, activities for children, story telling sessions, and locally-made goods for sale.

Proceeds from the event will be collected by the Bridgend Lions Club, and will be distributed to local good causes.

However, it is advisable to book online to secure that meeting with Santa, and this can be done on *www.carnegiehouse.co.uk*

In the town itself, there have been positive developments, as a brand new car park, replacing the old Rhiw one, is now up and running.

In fact, for the entire month of December, there will be free parking in this car park (and other Bridgend County Borough Council-owned car parks) on Saturdays and Sundays, after 10am.

Above the car park, scheduled to be completed in around May, will be retail units and above them, flats for people who want to live and work in the town, or commute from the nearby railway station.

It's an example of the local council's plan to rejuvenate the town centre by having people living above retail units as much as possible.

One business with faith in the town centre is Malmo Hearing – after all, they have been there for eight years now.

It's a family firm and it does far more than just hearing aids. It does, of course, offer free hearing tests, and also wax removal, but it does a great deal of work on the preventative side.

Rachael Barnett of Malmo said: "Our latest focus is custom-made hearing protectors to stop people suffering from tinnitus in later life.

"Musicians are an obvious sector that would benefit, but that applies to other areas of work too."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

dainton Self Storage

Need a secret hiding place for your Christmas presents?

Use our 'Elf Storage' offer to store your presents for FREE until Christmas Eve!*

We also have secure domestic and commercial storage with flexible terms and affordable rates!

Call 01656 750293, email bridgend@dainton.com or visit us at Coity Road, Bridgend, CF31 1NS

* Valid until 24th Dec 2016 subject to availability & limited to 1 offer per address. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with other Dainton Group Services discounts or offers. Ask in-store for full T&Cs.

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IN BRIDGEND COUNTY

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halo

IN AND AROUND **Bridgend** IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

Local storage firm's bright ideas to help Macmillan

WITH Christmas approaching, the staff at Dainton Self Storage in Bridgend are encouraging the community to donate any soft toys they no longer want so they can be raffled off to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support in the New Year.

Many families free up space in their children's toy collection at this time of year with the promise of new toys soon to be arriving from Santa.

Often, families will have toys that are no longer played with that could be loved by a new owner and with this in mind, Dainton Self Storage have set up a collection point at their Bridgend site on Coity Road for any clean soft toys in good condition.

The Dainton Self Storage staff chose Macmillan Cancer Support as their adopted charity at the beginning of the year and have so far raised an incredible £10,000 through many fundraising activities, including organising their first family fun day. The Dainton team hope support for their soft toy collection and their annual 'Elf Storage' service will push their fundraising total even higher!

With children (and some curious adults!) keen to learn what Santa is bringing, Dainton are also offering to store presents in their 'Elf Storage' units from December 1 up until Christmas Eve, safe from prying eyes in return for a voluntary £1 donation to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Dainton's operations director, Shaun Duncan, said: "We are really proud of our fundraising total and hopefully our soft toy collection and Elf Storage will help us end the year on a high. Elf Storage is perfect for those difficult-to-hide presents like bicycles, doll's prams etc and we are pleased to help out at this time of year.

"Christmas is a wonderful time for giving and we realise that many families have toys taking up space at home that could be passed on to others to enjoy. Our soft toy collection can help with this, while raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity close to many people's hearts."

Take advantage of Dainton's special 'Elf storage' Christmas offer!

Soft toys for Macmillan and presents for Elf Storage can be dropped into Dainton Self Storage on Coity Road during the reception opening hours of 8:30am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday, where they will be stored in secure storage units set aside for both purposes. Any presents stored in Elf Storage can be collected up until December 24.

Anyone who wants to take advantage of Dainton's Elf Storage service should call the Elf Storage hotline on 01656 750293 or email bridgend@dainton.com.

Santa and his reindeer visited the town last Saturday, and they were in Wyndham Street so that youngsters could get a close-up look.

AN EXPERT'S ADVICE COULD AVOID DISPUTE

BRENDAN SWEENEY, of David Prosser & Co Solicitors, writes:

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the UK population do not have a Will.

A Will takes effect on your death and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate.

Probate disputes and challenges to Wills are becoming a growth area, which often leads to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex, and expert advice regarding the drafting of a Will is essential.

A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax, and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to inheritance tax

It is important that people are fully aware of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a Will, to ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid Will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted Will, after taking advice, is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early, and putting in place Powers of Attorney – whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare, if you lose capacity.

The people appointed are made fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

SAMANTHA B IS A ONE-STOP SHOP FOR STYLISH CLOTHING

WHETHER it's casual or evening wear, accessories or a coat, we have it covered at Samantha b!

As the 'C' word is being used in almost every sentence it makes us realise that Christmas is just around the corner.

Why fight for parking spaces when you can park right outside Samantha b and take the stress out of your shopping.

We have a wonderful selection from fantastic labels , Bianca, Olsen, marble, Poppy, Emreco, pomodoro, Adini and some great outer wear from David Barry.

If you're fed up with the usual dull winter colours, come in and try some of our coordinated range of coloured trousers and cords from poppy, Olsen and marble.

Poppy trousers are a great all rounder, this season in gorgeous claret and mulberry as well as traditional black, navy, grey and brown with matching knitwear – what's not to like?

If you haven't tried marble jeans, what are you waiting for? Plum, lime or mink are lovely ways to add colour to your winter wardrobe, as well as back and navy.

Olsen trousers are a fabulous fit, Mona jeans in claret, camel , black or navy, topped off with a warm knit and a gilet, voila!

If you're looking to beat the cold, call in and see the range of coats, padded coats in lovely pink, grey, gold and navy, wool coats in red, navy and black and a fab range of waterproof in purple, olive, red, navy and stone.

As well as all that, gorgeous gilets, faux fur from Bianca and marble, padded and knitted, we really are a one stop shop!

We also have a fab range of accessories, ponchos, capes, scarves and necklaces for those difficult-to-buy-for friends and family, and if your really stuck for ideas, what about a gift voucher?

Call in for great service a warming glass of sherry and a free gift wrapping service.

For more details (and offers) see our advert on tis page.

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IN AND AROUND **Bridgend** IN THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS

WHEN SANTA CAME TO TOWN

BRIDGEND Lions got off to a flying start with Santa arriving in Bridgend town centre on Saturday, November 26 supported by lots of elves (*above*).

Santa enjoyed his ride through Bridgend town on the sleigh drawn by his trusted reindeer, before going to the Christmas grotto where he was joined by members of Bridgend Lions and their partners, who welcomed many children and some 700 visitors throughout the day.

Busy Santa chatted to 100-plus children in his grotto and received letters and cards prepared by them.

There were craft stalls to amuse the children while waiting to see him, and a mail room where they could write their Christmas lists.

Adults browsed the beautiful Christmas gift stalls and later in the day, Santa met a large number of delightful angels before switching on the town's lights. Hundreds of people attended the event and joined in the carol singing.

A successful day was had by everyone involved. The reindeer were there but the rain stayed away!

ABOVE: Malmo Hearing have been in Bridgend town centre for eight years.

Get to know Bridgend traders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

The company is trying to raise awareness of the tinnitus issue, and recently ran a competition linked to Bonfire Night where they gave away free ear defenders to some lucky children to protect against really loud bangs.

Malmo have an outreach programme too, and recently installed a machine in Cowbridge Health Centre that enables people to do a five-minute 'self assessment' of their hearing.

That could head off a few family rows that break out when one partner thinks the other's hearing is deteriorating.

Riverside Hardware and Engineering used to be in the town centre but outgrew their premises and moved out to the Bridgend Industrial Estate.

Owner Ryan Woodbridge may not put on Christmas offers as such, but he has the winter season thoroughly covered, offering a huge range of Calor portable gas heaters.

For DIY products, of course, his premises stock a very wide range that can make the job easier for anyone planning a project over the holiday break.

Another town centre company that has made plans for Christmas is the Denture Design Centre in the Crosby Yard Industrial Estate, Wildmill.

There, Matthew Thomas is one of only a few dental technicians qualified to supply dentures as well as repair them.

Of course, a set of dentures is a rare Christmas present, but repairs to existing sets are a more common Christmas need.

For this reason, he will be opening to cater for emergency repairs on December 28, 10am to 12 noon, and the charges will be normal price, with no holiday time extras.

Emergency work will also be done over the Christmas period. Just call the laboratory number (01656 767806) to discuss.

Denture Design Centre

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EVERYONE IS A WINNER AT ANNUAL 'MUSIC IN THE VALE' COMPETITION

ABOVE: Instrumental junior group, left to right: Betsi Watkins, piano; Efa Peak, harp (winner); Harrison Ollier, guitar (HC); Erin Perkins, piano (runner-up); Grace Angharad Jones, flute.

Instrumental ensemble (HC) Harmonious Harps splinter group. The sextet are mostly from Cowbridge School.
Please note, HC alongside a competitor's name means 'Highly Commended'.

ABOVE: Young singer junior winner Megan Jayne Malow.

ABOVE: Adjudicator Patricia Wheatley O'Neill, Rhiannon Ashley (winner), Grace Farrell (runner-up), adjudicator Elizabeth Donovan.

ABOVE: Instrumental young intermediate group: Alessia D'Ambrosio, piano (HC); Megan Thomas, harp (runner-up); adjudicator Gwyn L Williams; Huw Boucher, harp (winner); William Davies, piano (HC).

ABOVE: Young singer intermediate winner Megan Grace Jones, with adjudicator Elizabeth Donovan.

ABOVE: Instrumental intermediate group, back row left to right Aisha Palmer, Rhys Wyn Newton, Jacob Court, Holly Rhiannon Thompson, Abbie Nia Williams; front row left to right Maccie Wallis (runner-up), adjudicator Lucy Robinson, Tomos Arthur Boyles (winner).

ABOVE: Instrumental senior runner-up Peter Greenwood, tuba.

ON November 19 and 20 'Music In the Vale' held its annual competition for singers and instrumentalists aged eight to 23 years old at Stanwell School, Penarth.

This year there were two singing adjudicators: Patricia O'Neill, who has been a vocal tutor at Cardiff University and Howells School, Llandaff; and Elizabeth Donovan, who was the 1998 Music In the Vale winner for Young Singer of the Year and who represented Wales in the BBC Cardiff *Singer of the World* in 2003.

The two instrumental adjudicators were Gwyn L Williams, who has been senior music producer for Radio 3 in Wales, chief executive of the Llangollen International Eisteddfod, and Lucy Robinson, who has an international reputation for her research into Baroque music and was head of postgraduate studies and research at the RWCMD.

Competitors will be invited to perform at a Christmas fundraising concert at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on December 21 at 7:30pm. This year's gala concert will be held in All Saints' Church, Penarth on January 22 at 2pm. For more information, visit *www.musicinthevale.org.uk*.

ABOVE: Instrumental senior group: Harrison Williams, piano (winner); Idony Perrett, clarinet (HC); adjudicator Gwyn L Williams; Peter Greenwood, tuba (runner-up); Nathaniel Alcolado, vibrophone (HC).

ABOVE: Young singer young senior group: Seren Hamilton, Manon Ogwen Parry (runner-up), Llinos Haf Jones (winner), Charlotte Adams (highly commended), Cerys Baker.

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Hafod Housing Association, in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, has two new two-bedroom homes for sale at 70% of the full market value.

Priority will be given to people with a local connection but we welcome applications from people who live and/or work in the Vale. Eligibility criteria apply.

Second stage applications are now welcomed and should be submitted before 8 December 2016.

Hafod

For more information and application forms, contact:
Aspire2Own at Vale of Glamorgan Council:
Telephone: 01446 709237
E-mail: housingstrategy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Faith in youngsters is rewarded as Cowbridge out-pace Tonyrefail RFC

ON a sunny, cool afternoon last Saturday Cowbridge welcomed Tonyrefail RFC to the Athletic Ground.An important game for both sides, Tonyrefail (eighth) just two places and four points above Cowbridge and just nine points separating third and tenth.

Tonyrefail kicked off with the sun behind them and within a couple of minutes Cowbridge had their first scoring opportunity when flanker Rhod Walker charged down a kick – only for the ball to roll into touch a few metres out.

A good run by Kieron David minutes later again gave Cowbridge another opening which they were unable to turn into points.

Tonyrefail began to dominate and a missed penalty was followed by some telling breaks from their No 10, who was a threat throughout.

However, after 15 minutes Ton received a yellow card. Taking the penalty quickly, Cowbridge stormed into the visitors' 22 and a clever kick from No 10 Alex Guard saw centre Johnny Graham touch down under the posts. Full back Ben Wright converted.

Despite the lead, Cowbridge's play was a little disjointed at times with Tonyrefail benefiting from several penalties. However, there were signs towards the end of the half that Cowbridge were beginning to click.

Inspired by great hit from hooker Craig Boxall, Cowbridge appeared to score a try but were held up just over the line and, with seconds to go, Wright just missed a penalty from the half way.

Half-time Cowbridge 7 Tonyrefail 0

The first 10 minutes of the second half were fairly quiet but the Cowbridge pack was beginning to dominate.

The back row of Walker, captain Richie Howson and the powerful Dan Holder were proving quite a handful and, with good lineout ball from Jack Anderson and Dave Breed, it seemed just a matter of time before a second try arrived.

A chip from livewire scrum half Hywel Williams resulted in Cowbridge securing turnover ball and this was spun along the backs for winger James Phillips to sprint over in the corner.

Tonyrefail were next to score with a converted try by their dangerous No 10.

Ben Wright extended the Cowbridge lead with a penalty for a high tackle on barnstorming prop Dai Popham. Wright had two further penalty attempts, the second hitting the post from the half-way.

Cowbridge continued to press, with Williams and Guard controlling the game, and a flowing move through centres Pat George and Graham released Phillips, but he was unfortunately adjudged to have a foot in touch.

Cowbridge continued to attack with Adam Dix having a few good runs down the right wing but it was Dan Holder who scored the third try, bursting through the Tonyrefail defence from a lineout.

With just six minutes to go, so we thought, Cowbridge went all out for the fourth try and a bonus point and did not disappoint.

Following a penalty into touch 10 metres out, a good take by Jack Anderson was followed by scrum half Williams completely bamboozling the Tonyrefail forwards with a dummy as he strolled through the middle of the lineout to score under the post in the dying seconds. Wright added the extras.

Except it was not the dying seconds – not even the dying minutes – as the ref added about 15 minutes. Where that came from nobody knows.

Tonyrefail managed a consolation converted try and eventually the final whistle blew.

Final score Cowbridge 27 Tonyrefail 14.

After a fairly disjointed first 15 minutes this was a fine performance from a young (with a few exceptions!) Cowbridge side who played with great confidence.

The forwards really took the game to Tonyrefail and there was some lovely running rugby from the backs. Coach Dan Williams was delighted. Well done boys.

This Saturday we travel to Caerau Ely, with no game the following Saturday and on the 17th, we take the long journey to high flying Llantwit Major for the last game of 2016. The first game of 2017 is home against Canton on January 7.

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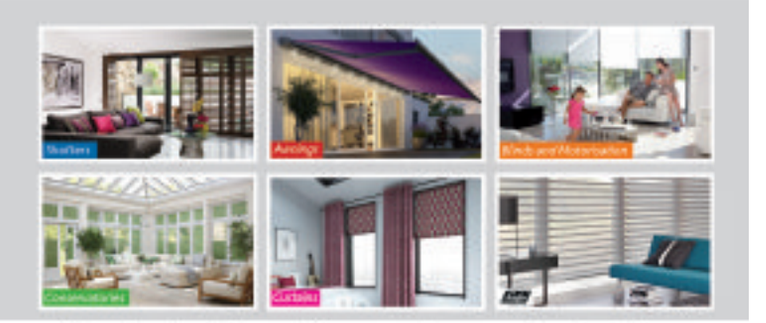

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(Figures correct as of April 2016)

Family Notices

PROSSER
Peggy

Peacefully at Springbank Nursing Home, Barry on November 21st, Peggy, formerly of Main Street, Treharne Road and the Gibbonsdown area. Beloved wife of Harold, loving mum to June, cherished nan of Janine and David. An adored great nan and great great nan.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Peggy is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service and committal at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, December 7th at 11am.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Peggy's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk, where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages and memories.

All donations to support Dementia UK.

CALLARD
Michael (Mick)

Passed away peacefully at home on 25th November.

Much loved by all his family and friends.

Funeral to be held at Coychurch Crematorium on Wednesday, 7th December at 11.30am. No flowers. Donations to Tenovus.

RUCK
Alfred Claude 'Tex'

Sadly passed away on 20th November 2016, loved and missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service to be held on Thursday, 8th December at Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park & Crematorium, Port Road, Barry at 11.15am. Family flowers only.

Donations in lieu, if desired, to Ty Hafan, c/o A. G. Adams & Sons, tel 01446 735400.

STAPLETON
Brian

Passed away peacefully on November 25 in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Brian of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved husband of the late Beryl and much loved father of Dean, Andrea and Kay.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Tuesday, December 6 in St. Illtud's Church at 2.15pm, followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

MYLCHREEST
David

Peacefully on November 9 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, after a very short illness, Dave of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of the late Beryl, dearly loved father of Alison and Beverley, a much loved grandfather and great grandfather.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, December 5, service and cremation 2pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to British Heart Foundation c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

MATTHEWS
Brinley Allin

Unexpectedly on November 13th at home - Brin, beloved husband of the late Fay. Much loved dad to Gwynneth, Mervyn, Bronwen, Eirwen, Allin and Gareth. A fun grandad and great grandad.

Service to take place at St David's Church, Barry on Monday, December 5th at 1.45pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only, donations may be made at the service to Barry Town Football Club.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service on 01446 407962

WILDE
Alban Edward

Peacefully in hospital on November 20, Alban, aged 87 years, late of Stembridge Court, Llandow, loving husband of Gwenyth, much loved dad of Susan, Frances and Glenys, father-in-law of John, Alan and Martin. Adored bampa and great bampie.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, December 6, service and cremation 3.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations if desired to the Ed Evans Foundation, c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

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Patricia Trudgian

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Love John, Jeremy, Jonathan, Jenny and all the family x.

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Acknowledgements

HEATHFIELD
Brian

Brenda, Adele, Adrian and families would like to express their thanks to all those who attended the service and also for the wonderful cards, flowers, tributes, love and support during this difficult time. We were truly overwhelmed.

We would like to thank Father Kevin Lake for his comforting words and prayers. Also, Lyndsay Ellis and staff at Vale Funeral Services for their efficient and caring funeral arrangements.

Finally, a huge thank you to all that have contributed so far to the memorial fund set up in Brian's honour.

Although we have exceeded the initial target donations can still be made at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Brian-Heathfield-Memorial-Fund.

WEBSTER
Colin

Etta and family would like to express their thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their cards and messages of sympathy received during their recent bereavement.

Special thanks to all who attended the service and to the Reverend Canon David Brunning whose kind words were a comfort to the family, and also to the staff of W.A. Brown & Son, Funeral Directors.

MATHESON
Gordon

Tracey and the children would like to thank family, friends and colleagues who travelled far and near to attend Gordon's funeral on 21st October, and expressed messages of sympathy.

Special thanks to those close who lend support throughout this difficult time. Also, special thanks to Father Anthony and Reverend Joy Birkin for officiating and W. James and Sons, Funeral Directors.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations
50th
Wedding Anniversary

.yn & Carol Willmot
On 30th November

We look forward to celebrating with you, much love from Hywel, Louise, Amanda, Sam, Imogen, Thomas, Abigail, Isobel and Madeleine

Birth

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Gareth & Kate Jamieson

on the birth of your beautiful son

Aaron Scott

Born 22nd November 2016.
Weighing 6lb 6oz.

Love & best wishes
all at The GEM
xxx

Birthdays

30!

Happy
30th Birthday
Louise Austin
for the 6th December
Have a nice day. See you soon.
Lots of love
Nanny Mave & Grampa Fred
xxx

JOHN PALMER
Happy 80th Birthday
(3/12/1936)
to my husband John
(still as handsome as when we first met).
All my love,
Norma xxx

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
John Palmer
Happy 80th Birthday Dad!
Hope you enjoy your special day.
Love always
Wayne, Kathryn, Elliot, Lauren, Sophie & Dean xxx

John Palmer
Happy 80th Birthday Dad
on 3rd December
Lots of love, Tracy, Brian, Ryan, Callum, Lucy, Nicole, Connor and great grand daughters Sophia and Gabriella xxx

80

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Application form and full job description can be obtained from The Clerk, Dinas Powys Community Council, Parish Hall, Dinas Powys, CF64 4AF, or **e-mail: theclerk@dinaspowys.org** or online **www.dinaspowys.org**. CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date: Midnight on Friday, 16th December 2016.

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Am ffurflen gais a disgrifiad llawn o'r swydd cysylltwch â: Cyngor Cymuned Dinas Powys, Swyddfa'r Cyngor, Neuadd y Plwyf, Heol Britway, Dinas Powys, CF64 4AF, neu **ebostiwch:theclerk@dinaspowys.org** neu arlein **www.dinaspowys.org**. Ni dderbynnir CVs.

Dyddiad cau: Hanner nos Gwener, 16eg Rhagfyr 2016.

Cynhelir cyfweliadau yn ystod yr wythnos yn cychwyn ar: Llun, 16eg Ionawr 2017.

Mae Cyngor Cymuned Dinas Powys yn ymdrechu i fod yn gyflogydd cyfleoedd cyfartal ac mae'n gwahodd ceisiadau o bob adran o'r gymuned.

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Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/
Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01328/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Removal of waste material stored on site since 1983 and the restoration of the land
Location:/Lleoliad: Meadowlands Estate, Drope Road, The Drope
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Drope

Listed Building Consent/
Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01358/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: New single storey extension to rear of Top Lodge to facilitate a dedicated reception building at the entrance of UWC Atlantic College. Additionally, internal and external repairs to existing Top Lodge building. Refurbishment of existing outbuilding to front garden to accommodate new bike store
Location:/Lleoliad: Top Lodge, Atlantic College, St. Donats
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Top (East) Lodge to St. Donat's Castle inc. attached garden wall, Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/
Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01368/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Two storey side extension converting existing garage and a single storey extension to the front of existing property. New wrap-around balcony to rear and side of the property
Location:/Lleoliad: April Rise, Church Lane, Welsh St. Donats
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Great House, Welsh St. Donats, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/
Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/00080/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Erection of an agricultural building for free range egg production, together with associated feed bins, hardstandings and access road
Location:/Lleoliad: Llwynhelig, Cowbridge

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/00946/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing building and erection of a Class A1 Limited Assortment Discount foodstore (1,593 sq m gross, 1,140 sqm net sales) with associated access, parking, landscaping and ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad: Unit 6, Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Barry

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01328/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Removal of waste material stored on site since 1983 and the restoration of the land
Location:/Lleoliad: Meadowlands Estate, Drope Road, The Drope

May affect a Public Right of Way/
Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/00080/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Erection of an agricultural building for free range egg production, together with associated feed bins, hardstandings and access road
Location:/Lleoliad: Llwynhelig, Cowbridge

Departure from Development Plan/
Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/00946/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing building and erection of a Class A1 Limited Assortment Discount foodstore (1,593 sq m gross, 1,140 sqm net sales) with associated access, parking, landscaping and ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad: Unit 6, Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Barry

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 1 December, 2016

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Bonus point win for Barry in a 'spirited' display

AFTER a week without a game because of the Autumn International matches and cup games it was back to business for the Barry 1st XV last Saturday when they entertained Old Illtydians RFC at the Reservoir Field for an East Central league 2 fixture.

After a shaky start to the season in which they lost their first three games, Barry have turned themselves around and won their last four games in the league so the expectations of the team and their supporters was naturally quite high and they were not to be disappointed.

In cold breezy conditions, it was the visitors who started the better by attacking and putting early pressure on the home fifteen from the kick off.

It did look for the first five minutes or so of the game that they might take an early lead, only to be denied by some resolute tackling by Barry and long, relieving kicks by half back pair Kyle Barros and Einan Scott.

After a pointless 18 minutes or so of play, it was Barry who struck the first blow. A long probing kick by Kyle Barros put the Old Illtydians full back under pressure and he sliced his returning kick into touch about 10 yards or so from his own line.

From the resulting line out a take and drive by the Barry pack pushed the visitors pack over their own line enabling Luke O'Sullivan to touch down for the first try of the day which Kyle Barros duly converted.

With 7 points on the board Barry started to attack and put a lot of pressure on the visitors. However, in their eagerness to defend this surge by Barry some of the Old Iltydians became overzealous and five minutes later a penalty was awarded to Barry which unfortunately just shaved the upright in the swirling wind.

The Barry fifteen were now in top gear and continued their attack to try and exploit the visitor's weaknesses.

The pressure paid off in the 25th minute when after what can only be described as a bit of a melee behind the Old Illtydians post, Luke O'Sullivan ended up with the ball in his hands and was able to ground the ball for Barry's and his second try. Scrum-half Kyle Barros was able to add the extra points to put Barry into a fourteen point lead.

No one can be sure what the visitors captain had to say to his team after this second score but whatever it was, it had a dramatic effect because they started to play with gusto and put the Barry defence on the back foot for the next 10 minute period of play and came close to scoring on a number of occasions.

However, the Barry fifteen were resolute in their defence and stopped them time and time again. This was the pattern of play up to the half time whistle with Barry able to keep their 14 - 0 score.

The second half started from the kick off with a dangerously high tackle on the Barry captain James Hadfield which was an obvious yellow card, if not more to all those who witnessed it, the one exception being the referee, who awarded a scrum to Old Illtydians for a knock on by James. A strange decision indeed.

Minutes later he showed a yellow card to Barry centre Tom Perry for knocking the ball out of one of the opponents arms when he had clearly ripped it out which is all fair in love and war.

If that was not bad enough 5 minutes later another yellow card was shown to hooker Alyn Evans.

With 15 playing 13 it was only going to be a matter of time before Old Illtydians took advantage of the situation and they did exactly that when their left wing went over in the corner for their first try of the game after 15 minutes of the second half. The conversion was unsuccessful.

The expectation at this stage of the game was that Barry would find it difficult to play attractive rugby with two men on the bench but this was not the case as they seemed to step up a gear and make numerous attacks on the visitors' line only to be held up time and time again.

Their perseverance did pay off however after 25 minutes of the half when scrum half Kyle Barros scored Barry's third try cutting through the defence from a five-metre scrum.

His conversion attempt from wide out was unsuccessful in the swirling wind. With the score at 19 - 5 in Barry's favour the call was for a possible bonus point win but Old Illtydians had other ideas and seemed determined to deny them the extra point with very determined defensive play which kept Barry out time and time again.

After making substitutions at the 65 minute mark Barry hoped that fresh legs would help them get that elusive fourth try and bonus point which had been denied them in the previous match against Abercynon.

It proved to be a good move because with five minutes of the match to go, centre Tom Perry crashed over the line after a run in from 25 yards out to secure the elusive bonus point. The conversion by Einan Scott was successful, giving Barry a 26–5 score with a couple of minutes left on the clock.

Most of those watching would have understandably thought that was that, but Old Illtydians had other ideas and pressed hard in the closing minutes to increase their score.

Their determination paid off and after some uncharacteristic sloppy defensive play by Barry, they were able to score a second try which was converted giving a final score of 26–12 in Barry's favour.

Considering the team had not had a game for two weeks this was a spirited display by Barry and they can be very pleased with their performance. The win put them in fourth place in the division with a game in hand over two of the teams above them.

Team: Dave Taylor, Alyn Evans, James Hollister, Rob Williams, Glyn Jones, Luke O Sullivan, James Hadfield, Callum Scott, Kyle Barros, Einan Scott, Wayne Jones, Brad White, Tom Perry, Danny Ryan, Tiernan Scott.

Replacements: Rhys O Sullivan, John Miles, Jamie Oaten, Ashley Adams and Tom Lee

Next Match: East Central League 2 on Saturday December 3rd versus Llanishen away at Usk Road LLanishen K.O 2.30pm.

Barry RFC Mega4 Lottery Numbers for Saturday 26th November 2016: 3, 7, 16 and 21.

DH

Llantwit Under-13s turn on the style at Llantrisant

THE under-13s Llantwit squad travelled to Llantrisant on Sunday for their weekly rugby fixture.

With games called off the weekend before due to flooded pitches, the players were looking forward to a run out.

The Llantwit team started well and put early points on the board with a driving run from Louis who then managed to offload before the contact to Lewis I, who used his pace to outsprint the defence and touch the ball down right between the posts.

The Llantwit team let their foot off the gas and allowed Llantrisant to come back at them. A strong run from the Llantrisant winger, coupled with some missed tackles for the Llantwit team, saw the home side level the points.

This seemed to focus the Llantwit side and they steadily took control of the game and were able to score again before half time.

The second half saw Llantwit Major up the tempo and take the game to the home team. Strong driving runs from the forwards and good passing and moving from the backs saw Louis add three tries, and Will F two of his own.

The second try scored by Lewis I was an absolute beauty, involving many players, with the play starting deep within the Llantwit half.

Nearly half the team were involved in the try which saw player after player gain ground but offload as contact was made to keep the ball alive. There were at least three players who could have taken the ball over the whitewash in the end to score the play of the game.

The strong boot of Lewis Morgan also added conversion points to make the final score a fantastic 43-17 to the visiting side.

Squad: Josh, Ioan, Lewis M, Lewis I, Jac, Aaron, Nathan, Iestyn, Sean, Tyler, Will F, Will H, Dafydd, Sam, Luke, Tom, Louis, James.

Annabel Ingram

Tae Kwon Do juniors compete in Derby Arena

THE torrential rain did nothing to dampen Team JSTKD's spirits at the TAGB British Tae Kwon Do Championships on November 20 at Derby Arena.

The team, comprising Menna Burmingham, Josh and Sean Edwards, Alisha Roberts, Zak Grinter, Alex Munn and Viv Wilfred, took part in the largest martial arts competition in Europe, which attracts around 1,200 competitors from all areas of the UK.

First to take to the floor was Menna, who looked cool and confident as she performed a complex black belt pattern with her trademark accuracy and flair. In a very close contest, resulting in less than a mark between the top places, she claimed the bronze and got the team off to a flying start.

Brothers Sean and Josh both gave it everything in their respective junior black belt events. Sean made it through the first round easily but just missed out in the next, while big brother Josh had to bow out in round one ,despite treating everyone to an impressive flying side kick along the way.

Over in the colour belts area, Alisha, who made the final of the girls green belt patterns earlier in the day, put on a powerful display in the girls' lightweight green belt division and was very unlucky to have to settle for bronze.

Meanwhile, for the boys, Zak kept his composure to out-manoeuvre his opponent and was rewarded with a deserved bronze in the boys' peewee yellow belt event.

In the boys' lightweight green belt contest, Alex looked certain to be heading for the medals but after a questionable decision, unfortunately left the event earlier than his performance would suggest.

Unusually, Viv was the only adult taking part for JSTKD and was competing in the executive ladies lightweight blue and red belt division. She found herself facing a much more experienced opponent but was determined to make the best of the situation. She battled on to take some points and although not enough to claim victory, she was able to add a silver to the team haul.

JSTKD has students from three years up to adults. Visit www.jstkd.co.uk for full details.

TONDU RFC CUT LOOSE AGAINST NANTYMOEL

TONDU 33 NANTYMOEL 7 by Mike Sully

Matthew Davies makes ground with the ball, with Paul Smithson in support. Photos by Gareth Anthony.

Josh Tatchell goes to ground with Jon Penpraze in support.

IT took 19 minutes for this game to spring into life.

Both sides had early chances but after strong pressure from the home side, flanker Matthew Morgan gave Tondu the lead with a try from a five-metre line out, Josh Tatchell adding the conversion from wide out.

Despite further pressure from Tondu, the score stayed at 7-0 at the break. A scrum five early in the second half saw veteran No 8 Nathan Strong extend the lead with a deserved try. Tatchell again added the extra points.

Tondu were now in control of this local derby and a quick tap penalty resulted in right wing Sam Grabham sailing over in the corner for Tondu's third.

Nantymoel then scored what was already a consolation try through wing Andrew Thomas, converted by Ryan Davies before the home side clinched a bonus point with a wonderful try for captain Hywel Davies, resulting from some great handling from the backs. Tatchell converted from under the posts.

Tondu sealed a memorable win in the 80th minute. After further forward pressure, their backs were let loose for Grabham to grab his second try under the posts.

In the end, it was an emphatic 33-7 win for the Waterwheelers that should keep them top of the pile.

Vale of Glamorgan Senior Football League round-up

AFTER a two week break, the Vale league returned with a fine weekend of football.

The big story of the day was in Division Two as leaders Cadoxton Imps finally saw the end of their 100 per cent record as they were held by second bottom Rhoose B 1-1.

This ended Imps' 11 game winning run, although they still remain unbeaten and 7 points clear at the top of the second division.

Elsewhere in division two, Barry Saints routed Barry Albion 8-1 to stay in second position while Penarth Town B climbed into third with a 4-0 victory over FC Pumas B.

BVFC dropped to fourth as they made it four games without a win as Island Marine B thumped them 4-0.

The Division One title race continues to heat up with only 2 points separating the top four teams. Barry Athletic B became the new leaders this week and in some style as they smashed Cadoxton Athletic 7-1.

FC Pumas came into the weekend as the pace setters but they were defeated 2-1 by fourth place SP Billy to drop to third, as Barry Belgrade stayed second with a 3-0 victory over Cadoxton Barry.

Dockers made it three games undefeated as they edged out Sully in a nine-goal thriller 5-4. Glenbrook finally had something to cheer about as they notched their first league win of the season, 4-3 against Cardiff Airport B, the win lifts Glenbrook off the bottom with Airport replacing them at the foot of the table.

The Premier Division only had two fixtures this weekend with teams involved in the SWFA Intermediate Cup.

Island Marine thumped Tynewydd 5-1, making it an impressive four wins out of their last five in the league. Barry Athletic went fourth with a 3-0 away win over Dinas Powys Athletic.

In the SWFA Intermediate Cup, there were four Vale league clubs in action. Unfortunately, it wasn't a great weekend for our teams with only one progressing.

Vale United tasted their first defeat of the season as they crashed out 7-3 at home to to Bridgend league side Llangeinor.

Cowbridge Town were edged out 3-2 by Taff Ely Rhymney Valley league side Nelson Cavaliers.

Rhoose were eliminated but put up a tremendous effort against SWFA Alliance League Division One side Penrhiwceiber Con Athletic losing 3-2.

St Athan are now the only Vale League club remaining after they won 4-1 against Treorchy to advance to the last 16.

SWFA Alliance League Division Two side Cardiff Airport are the other Vale based club still involved in the competition that they got to the final of last season, after they won 5-3 against Fairwater.

Next week's games of the weekend look like being the West Vale derby in the Premier Division as Cowbridge Town host St Athan, the top two in Division One clash as Barry Athletic B play Barry Belgrade, and it's second vs third in Division Two with Barry Saints facing Penarth Town B.

Check back here next week for a full round up.

HD

Agony for Bridgend Ath in close encounter against Maesteg RFC

IN National League Div 1 West Central, Maesteg claimed the bragging rights with a narrow 8-7 derby win in an uninspiring lunchtime kick off at the Bridgend Ford Brewery Field.

The first half was shorn of any real quality rugby with both sides previously this season turning on much better displays.

Both sides were error strewn and having possession regularly turned over.

The Athletic did have an effective driving maul from distance, but were unable in the first period to replicate it near the visitors try line.

The half finished with the Athletic camped inside the Maesteg 22, but lacking a cutting edge to capitalise on their opportunities. This resulted in a pointless first half.

The Athletic supporters thought they had an early second half try when centre Michael Hathaway broke clean through, but was ankle tapped 5 metres from the try line.

Maesteg responded with a quick tap penalty 30 metres from the Athletic try line and swift passing among the backs created an overlap for wing Steffan Hnatiuk to cross in the corner.

Outside half Laurence Howley increased the lead to 8-0 within two minutes with a well struck 40 metre penalty. This stung the Athletic into life and they forced a line-out 10 metres from the Maesteg try line.

This time the driving maul came to fruition with captain and flanker Ben Howe being driven over the try line. Full back Dan Howells converted to reduce the deficit.

Unfortunately this four minute flurry of points was not replicated further during the match.

The Athletic dominated possession and territory but too often were turned over in possession or took wrong options.

Howley was unlucky with another long range penalty which struck the upright, while the Athletic in the closing minutes were also unable to kick two long range penalties to win the game.

Final result: Bridgend Athletic 7 Maesteg 8.

For the Athletic Stuart Edbrook and Sean Williams stood out in the pack, while Michael Hathaway and Dan Howells were the pick of the backs.The Athletic would like to thank regular club supporter Mr John Naisbitt of Cotacabin Ltd for sponsoring the fixture.

This Saturday December 3 the Athletic entertain the other Div 1 West Maesteg side Maesteg Harlequins.

Adrian Burt
adrianburt2@aol.com

IMAGES by GLENNSPORTS

RIGHT: Ath's Chris Walker on the charge.

Tom Morgan about to re-cycle the ball.

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PACY PENARTH PROVIDE A REAL TEST FOR LLANTWIT MAJOR'S FIRST TEAM

LLANTWIT MAJOR First XV retained both their unbeaten home record and their second place in the league as they won a tough game 33-26 against Old Penarthians at the Recreation Ground.

With Old Pens struggling with player availability they opted for passive scrums minutes prior to kick off and in doing so took the sting out of the Llantwit game plan – as their scrummage has been a big asset to their form this season.

With the visitors then reduced to playing with the bare 15 you would have thought the advantage would have been with the home team but this was far from the truth, as Old Pens showed that they are an exceptional attacking team and arguably have the best back line that Llantwit have faced so far this season.

As the game kicked off in bright but chilly autumnal weather, Llantwit tried to catch the visitors cold as they tested the Old Pens back three with some big kicks from outside-half Josh Austin.

It soon became apparent though that they were more than up to the task as they counter-attacked brilliantly from deep inside their own half, taking possession right up to the Llantwit line and eventually coming away with three points from a penalty kick.

Llantwit soon got on the scoreboard when, from the resulting kick off, a dropped catch was quickly seized upon by speedster Luke Dawes on the wing as he hacked the ball on and then out-sprinted the cover defence to the bobbling ball, scoring in the corner.

The try was converted with a big kick from scrum-half Ryan Evans.

Old Pens replied with another penalty kick as the home side's penalty count grew. After some tit for tat possession, two big runs from flankers Gareth Watts and Rob Carter deep into the Old Pens half set up a brilliant back line move across the pitch to allow Rhys Dixon to show his pace by going over in the top corner, converted with another huge kick from Evans.

The next try was a tremendous piece of individualism by flanker and man of the match Gareth Watts.

Taking the ball on the 10-metre line, he spotted a gap in the Old Pens defence and like a rampaging rhino charged through and set off on a beautiful angled run to round the defending winger before changing his angle and dummying the fullback to race over under the posts.

Watts for a big man shows remarkable speed but also has a rugby brain in his running game.

As half-time approached the Old Pens got themselves back into the game with an unconverted score of their own; the half finishing at 21-11.

In the second half, Old Pens were soon back on the scoreboard as Llantwit's discipline once again let them down, conceding another three points.

The penalty count against the home side was disturbing, conceding over 15 penalties by the third quarter – something the coaches will no doubt be debriefing through the week.

Old Pens then scored another try with their back line ripping the home team apart with a fine try which, thankfully for Llantwit, was not converted as the kick rebounded of one of the uprights.

Old Pens then missed out on rounding off another good back line move with a try thanks to a great cover tackle by wing Luke Dawes.

Llantwit then began to exert some pressure with some hard running by forwards and backs, with centre Rhys Davies and old stalwart Shaun Shea to the fore.

The pressure eventually led to Gareth Watts diving over from close quarters for his second try, converted by Evans

This was then followed up with a fine try with forwards and backs combining well, finished off with a strong run from loose forward Rob Carter, typically leaving several defenders in his wake as he stormed over.

Evans then missed the conversion which was probably his simplest of the day to marginally tarnish an otherwise excellent performance with the boot.

With less than 10 minutes to go and the score at 33-19, it was time to close the game out. But no, true to form Llantwit imploded with the traditional yellow card to keep their supporters on tenterhooks for the final whistle.

This time replacement Donovan Stoppell had his marching orders after only being on the field a few minutes for infringing at the ruck.

This obviously gave Old Pens a life line to snatch the game from the home side, which they duly attempted to do, making repeated attacks into the Llantwit half, eventually driving a maul over for a converted try.

This led to a nervous last few minutes with just seven points separating the teams. The Llantonians though, managed to hold off the Old Pens attacks to take the spoils at 33-26 and remain second in the league.

Next week Llantwit are on the road again as they travel up to the Rhondda Valley to take on the Mighty Ducks as they face Wattstown RFC in the league.

The Llantonians though will be more interested in monkeys than ducks as they will be hoping to get one off their backs – their poor away form in the Valleys, having not won a game north of the M4 for some considerable time.

Kick off is back to the standard time of 2:30pm. The team bus will be leaving the clubhouse at 12:15pm with supporters welcome to travel with the team.

There has been a lot of interest in the Monmouth cup game the following weekend on Saturday, December 10, so the club will be running a supporters bus or minibus.

If you wish to book a seat, put your name down on the list behind the bar in the clubhouse or you can phone through on 01446 792276. **AH**

Brian Lee highlights Welsh Grand National winners

THE Welsh Grand National takes place at Chepstow on December 27. The last time a horse actually trained in Wales won the Welsh Grand National was in 1965, when Mr Glanville Jones's *Norther* was successful (recent winners *Le Beau Bai* in 2011 and *Mountainous* 2013 and 2015 were trained at Presteigne a couple of miles from the Welsh border).

A former winning Welsh point-to-pointer, *Norther* was trained by Denzil Jenkins of Cowbridge in the Vale of Glamorgan. During the war as Sqdn Ldr Jenkins DFC, he had commanded a squadron of fighter pilots and had 192 flying operations to his credit.

Ridden between-the-flags by Rhys Williams, father of present day National Hunt trainer Evan Williams, who has come close to training the winner himself on a couple of occasions, *Norther* was usually ridden by Ken White but he had been claimed to ride *Palas Main,* who was to finish fifth.

Led over the last by *Quintina*, who was trying to land a notable double for Fred Winter, who had saddled Jay Trump to win the Aintree National, *Norther,* partnered by the legendary Terry Biddlecombe, stayed on gallantly to beat Fred Winter's charge by a length with *Dark Venetian* pipping little *Limonali* for third place.

The following year, *Norther* finished seventh in the Aintree Grand National and was runner-up in the Scottish Grand National. A fine jumper, he was to return to point-to-pointing and had had only one fall since 1966 when at the age of 15, he came down ate at the South Pembrokeshire Hunt Steeplechases.

Sadly, he somehow later broke his jaw when grazing in a field and had to be put down.

Brian Lee is the author of The Welsh Grand National From Deerstalker to Emperor's Choice *(published by The History Press at £12.99).*

COWBRIDGE DARTS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

ON Tuesday, November 22, a full programme of league matches in the Cowbridge Darts League was completed.

The Edmondes C beat the Edmondes A 6-3. In this match, Steve Simmonite (Edmondes A) joined the 'three-dart-out 100 or higher' club, just, by hitting a 100 and Noyle Burt (Edmondes C) also hit a high out of 53.

In the all-Farmers Arms fixture in a closely contested match, the Hairy Farmers defeated the Farmers Arms 5-4.

In this match Nigel Thomas (Farmers Arms) hit his second 180 of the season and Simon Reader (Hairy Farmers) hit a 96 two-dart-out (treble 20 followed by double 18).

The Edmondes B beat the Red Lion 9-0 and in the battle for second place, the Six Bells Inn defeated the Highwayman Inn 5-4.

The Llanharry Workingmens club was unable to raise a team, so the Victoria Inn was awarded the nine points.

Present league standings, after nine weeks, are: Edmondes B (60 points), Six Bells Inn (53), Highwayman Inn (51), Edmondes A (43), Edmondes C (41), Hairy Farmers (40), Llanharry and Farmers Arms (38), Victoria Inn (36) and Red Lion (5).

Next week (Tuesday, December 6) a full programme of league matches is scheduled. The Hairy Farmers hosts the Six Bells Inn, the Edmondes C hosts the Red Lion, Llanharry hosts the Farmers Arms, the Edmondes A hosts the Victoria Inn and the Highwayman Inn hosts the Edmondes B.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at *cowbridgedarts@gmail.com*, up-to-date information can be found on the website: *www.darts.apsn.co.uk*. **PJT**

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BAKER BOYS BURN BRISTOL AS HOCKEY CLUB GOES UNBEATEN

PENARTH Hockey Club enjoyed an unbeaten weekend as victories for the promotion-chasing first and second XIs were complemented by a first GoCrea8 League point for the steadily-improving Fourths.

PENARTH 4-3 Bristol University 'A'

Having lost their first match of the season at UWE the previous weekend, Penarth's 1st XI were keen to exact revenge on Bristol's other student cohort at Stanwell, but could only do so thanks to the back-breaking efforts of 'player-groundsmen' Ben Croxall, Jack Jopson and Graeme Jones, who cleared gallons of standing water from the pitch after torrential overnight and early morning rain.

With the 4th XI having shown that the pitch was playable, the Bears' match began on schedule, albeit amid persistently horrible conditions, but the early exchanges were dominated by the away team, who looked dangerous in possession and well-organised across the field.

It was something of a surprise, therefore, that Penarth took the lead against the run of play, stand-in captain Chris Baker picking up a midfield ball from returning leader Tom Haran, before beating a number of students and firing a backhand shot into the roof of the net from a tight angle.

Despite the goal, the University continued to look threatening, and found an equaliser with a very well-placed flick from a penalty corner just five minutes later. Having been pegged back, the Bears started to gain more control of the game, and responded in kind as Baker added his, and the team's second.

This time Croxall was the provider, dribbling his way through opposition tackles before Baker's first time shot stunned the goalkeeper and found the bottom corner.

A third goal would prove important for Penarth, and came after 25 minutes, following some patient build-up play from Rich John, Marcus Powell and Haran at the back. This time, as the Bears ventured forward, it was Rich Baker who expertly fired his reverse-stick shot into the corner to give the goalkeeper no chance.

The half ended with just a single goal separating the teams, as some ill-discipline from Penarth just before the break allowed the students to convert another penalty corner, but the home side were determined to make amends after the break and started the second period at a furious pace, dispossessing the students near their own goal and winning a first penalty corner of the game. Despite not taking their chance to extend the advantage, Penarth certainly looked the most threatening and started to re-establish control over the game.

Discipline – or the lack of it – continued to plague the Vale side, however, and, having been reduced to ten players, they saw their lead wiped out completely as the students seized the chance to even things up at 3-3 with 20 minutes to play.

Penarth responded positively, however, with numerous forays into the attacking third. Heroically, Joe Thomas weaved his way through the opposing sticks in a crowded 'D' before finding Chris Baker at the far post, and the captain fired in his third of the game to put the Bears back in front.

For the final 10 minutes, the hosts remained strong defensively, holding on for an important three points to remain near the summit of Conference North.

Goalscorers: Chris Baker (3), Rich Baker.

Swansea City 'B' 1-6 PENARTH 'A'

THE 2nd XI travelled to face Swansea City 'B' looking for a fourth consecutive win knowing that they needed to maintain their impressive run of form if they were to keep up with the top two in De Cymru 1.

A growing injury list and several late drop-outs meant that some familiar faces returned to the team sheet for the first time this season, with last season's league-winning captain Matt Birch filling in at the unfamiliar position of centre back and 3rd XI captain Dave Watkins reclaiming his erstwhile centre forward role.

As with the rest of south Wales, the conditions in Swansea were awful and the game started under ominous skies, but that proved no deterrent to the visitors, who made their now customary quick start and pressed forward to test the home goalkeeper several times in the opening exchanges.

Having been rebuffed early on, the breakthrough finally came midway through the first half, as fantastic work from Tom Parkinson and Chris McCarthy created the chance for Watkins to apply a deft touch and guide the ball past the 'keeper.

With their tails up, Penarth's lead was doubled soon after, as a well-worked penalty corner routine was finished off by Chris McCarthy, but the strike coincided with the heavens opening and torrential rain made it difficult to play flowing hockey thereafter as the pitch became increasingly waterlogged.

The Bears' half-time talk focused on playing to the conditions and killing off the game with a third goal, and they did not have to wait long before Watkins applied another smart finish to a well-constructed attack. Phil Lane quickly continued his goal-scoring streak by adding a fourth with a powerful strike from the top of the 'D' but, to their credit, Swansea did not give up and kept pushing for a consolation goal.

That eventually came with 10 minutes to go, as the ball was forced over the line in a goalmouth scramble to deny goalkeeper Adam Putt and the back four the clean sheet their performances deserved.

Despite time running out, Penarth pushed for extra goals that could prove important later in the season. Number five came as Sam Docherty and Sam Chick linked up to feed Sam Salisbury, who rounded the 'keeper and, with the goal gaping… hit the post. Fortunately, the ball rebounded straight back to the young striker, who finished at the second bite of the cherry.

The scoring was rounded off by Lane to give Penarth a deserved 6-1 victory, and the total could have been more had it not been some unbelievable saves from the young Swansea 'keeper in the second half.

The win sees Penarth move to within three points of the promotion places, with a couple of close, but winnable, games coming up before the Christmas break.

Goalscorers: Dave Watkins (2), Phil Lane (2), Chris McCarthy, Sam Salisbury.

PENARTH 'C' 2-2 Gwent 'B'

HAVING arrived at Stanwell wondering whether their match would go ahead at all, let alone on time, the 4th XI got underway against Gwent 'B' with only a short delay to the scheduled midday push back.

With the fine performance against runaway league leaders Swansea University still fresh in their minds, but conscious of the heavy defeat at the hands of the visitors in their last encounter, the C-siders ensured that the opening quarter was competitive and cagey, with little to chose between the two teams.

As the half progressed, however, the discipline and concentration required to effectively play the system that had served the Vale side so well started to fade, allowing the skillful and experienced Gwent team to dominate.

Under greater amounts of pressure, Penarth were grateful for the calm authority of veteran Ian Brookfield and the agility of 'keeper Luke Williams to keep the scores level going into the half time break.

The second half began much as the first ended, with Gwent dominating possession but struggling to break down the organised Penarth defence. Growing in confidence, and with Tom Griffiths featuring more and more in the congested midfield, it was the home side who found an unexpected breakthrough, with Griffiths managing to get on to the end of a penetrating cross from skipper Nick Pratt to feed James Kerr-Smith, who calmly beat the Gwent 'keeper.

Fired up by an apparent sense of injustice amid claims that a Penarth foot had played a part in the opening goal, Gwent redoubled their efforts, forcing the home side backwards before being rewarded with two quick goals to take a narrow lead into the closing minutes.

With frustrations and tempers rising, umpires Colin Crayford and Neil Jewess had to be at their sharpest to keep a lid on things, but it was testimony to the combativeness of the Penarth side that they refused to lie down and pushed forward in search of an equaliser.

With minutes remaining, man-of-the-match Griffiths produced a fierce shot that gave the Gwent 'keeper little chance, levelling the scores 2-2, a fair result between two-closely matched sides that notably gave the C-siders their first point of the 2016-17 campaign.

Goalscorers: James Kerr-Smith, Tom Griffiths.

All four Penarth sides will be in league action this weekend, with the First again taking centre stage as they return to Bristol to take on Firebrands in a top four battle. While the senior side are on their travels, the Seconds, Thirds and Fourths will all be in action at Stanwell, taking on Neath (1.45pm start) Gwent 'B' (noon start) and Swansea City 'C' (3.30pm start) respectively.

Social

PRIOR to the weekend, Penarth Hockey Club will be hosting a quiz and curry night at Penarth Athletic Club on Friday, November 25 starting at 7.30pm. Entry is £5 a head and all are welcome.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on Wednesdays at Stanwell School, with the juniors on the pitch between 6.15pm and 7.15pm and the seniors between 7pm and 8.15pm.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

The Dinas Wolves put on a vintage display

DINAS WOLVES put in the most complete display of the season on Saturday morning as they all went about their jobs in a professional manner.

Kyle Booker opened the scoring cutting in from the right and slotting home from a tight angle.

The home side had piled on the pressure from the first whistle and struck the bar on a number of occasions and peppered the visitors' goal with some great shots.

The high tempo start carried on even after Cowbridge drew level. Callum Hewitson and then Bayley Harewood gave Dinas a commanding 3-1 lead at the break.

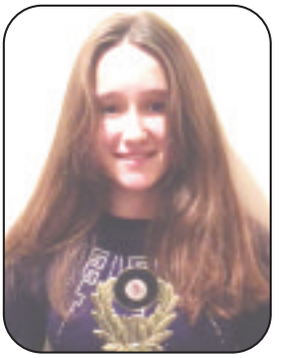
Making changes every 18 minutes throughout the match the level of intensity never dropped and the display from the Wolves was vintage.

Kyle Booker added the fourth as he struck an unstoppable pile driver from 25 yards following great team work. Robson Mallam was having a very strong game and deservedly walked off with the man of match award.

Dinas go again next week at Home to Sully looking to carry on from this performance.

Lee Saunders

BARRY GIRL WINS WELSH TRAMPOLINE COMPETITION



Freya Whittaker with her trophy.

A 12-YEAR-OLD from Barry, Freya Whittaker, has won the Welsh Gymnastics Regional Schools novice under-14 girls' trampolining competition.

It was held on November 20 at Cardiff Central Youth Club, and competition was strong with 35 girls competing.

She now qualifies to compete in the zonal competition in Cannock early next year.

Freya is a keen trampoline gymnast and has been competing for two years. Freya attends Bishop of Llandaff High School. Freya trains with Careau Vale Trampoline Club in Penarth.

It has been a good year for Freya; in May, she represented Wales in the trampoline and tumbling Regional NDP competition at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham.

Freya is also a keen horse rider and is generally to be found either practising her bouncing or at the stables.

Cowbridge Under 11s on song in Cardiff

THIS week Cowbridge U11s travelled with a near full complement of players to Cymru Caerdydd.

The squad were mixed for the morning's games which were reduced to one game each for the squad due to the late withdrawal of a second team scheduled to make up a round-robin series.

The first game started strongly for Cowbridge dominating in a number of areas of the game, strong running by George Tuckley from the pack opened the account for Cowbridge.

Joe Arentsen showed his quick feet and weaved his way through for two silky tries. James Collingridge nicked a further try, with the victory sealed by Josh Canning running free of the tackle and diving over in the corner.

Cymru Caerdydd picked up two of their own, final score 5-2 to Cowbridge.

The second game saw a new team for Cowbridge run out against the opposition, however Cymru were quicker to the ball at the breakdown and missed tackles by Cowbridge led to the opener going to hosts. Cowbridge came back strong, with running from the backline and Harry New taking the equaliser.

Jake Davies put Cowbridge further ahead although the game was soon on equal footing again with the home team scoring a quick reply.

Harry New showed great awareness and capitalised on a stray pass to intercept and score, with Osian Bruce further pushing Cowbridge ahead with a strong run from centre.

Despite a late effort by Cymru, Cowbridge ran the ball from the kick-off with good passing finding Harry Smith to run in from the wing. Final score 5-3 to Cowbridge. Well done again boys.

IC

VALE TRAINER ENJOYS A WINNING WEDNESDAY

VALE trainers John Flint, Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan all saddled winners last Wednesday writes Brian Lee.

My Bubba, a 10-1 chance trained by John Flint, took the closing All Weather 'Hands And Heels' Apprentice Series Handicap at Kempton Park.

Well ridden by 5lb claimer William Cox, four-year-old *My Bubba* got home by half-a-length from *Ravens Heart*.

At the jumps fixture at Hereford earlier in the day, Evan Williams' eight-year-old *Copper Birch* who carried top weight landed the Bet365 Conditional Jockeys' Training Series Handicap Chase by seven lengths from Nigel Twiston-Davies' *NorthAndSouth*.

Copper Birch was ridden by CJ Maher and won by seven lengths at odds of 5-2.

Later in the day, Tim Vaughan's six-year-old *Knight's Reward* took the Bet365 Novices' Handicap Chase over two miles when beating *YourHolidayIsOver* by one-and-a-half lengths.

Knight's Reward, a 5-2 chance, was partnered by Alan Johns who has been in brilliant form of late.

BRIAN LEE

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WALES 27 - SOUTH AFRICA 13

THREE OUT OF FOUR CAN'T BE BAD, NOW…

Wales have a breathing space to get up to speed with the 'new way'

Pictures by Huw Evans Agency

ABOVE, left : a moment of magic as the outstanding Justin Tipuric breaks through for the try that sealed victory. ABOVE, right: Taulupe Faletau and Dan Biggar celebrate taking a rare southern hemisphere scalp, but the Welsh camp know they are still playing catch up with the world elite.

BACK PAGE COMMENT
by Don John

AS the final drama unfolded in a nervy autumn campaign whose talking point has been as much about coaches being under pressure to perform as the players, the Wales camp knew that Saturday's finale against an experimental South African side, on a cold November evening at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, could well have a significance far beyond the result itself.

Three narrow wins in the Under Armour Series, though a creditable feat, had failed to still widespread mutterings over below-par displays by a hesitant Welsh team seemingly caught between the defence-minded 'Warrenball' system that has served them so well in the past, and the urgent need to develop the more expansive, fast-attacking style of play now favoured by top tier teams worldwide.

"There is a tinge of disappointment in terms of the performance against Japan (when Wales won 33-30 the week before) and we want to put that right against South Africa. Not only are we looking to win this weekend, we want a performance to go with it," caretaker head coach Robert Howley had declared.

"The cohesion the players have shown over the four or five weeks, has been outstanding," he told a sceptical media. "It's our last chance of the autumn series and we want to transfer all the hard work we have put in into a big performance."

In the event, a clearly relieved Howley got his wish as an improved display disposed of what former England hooker-turned pundit Brian Moore scathingly described as *"the worst South African team I have ever seen,"* with a conclusive 27-13 victory, for the home squad to end the series on a high.

The Welsh camp had expressed itself *"pleased"* with the hard fought 24-20 win over Argentina in the second of the autumn tests and had opted for the same starting line-up against the ailing Springboks, apart from stinger victim Sam Warburton; with Dan Lydiate coming in on the blindside and No 8 Taulupe Faletau returning from injury among the replacements.

(He came on after the interval in place of the injured Lydiate and immediately made his usual telling contribution, linking up superbly with man-of-the-match openside, Justin Tipuric, who set the seal on a deserved victory with a breakaway converted try in the dying minutes).

To put the result in context, it was only the third win over South Africa in 31 attempts since the first clash at the old St Helens ground in Swansea on December 1, 1906 (which the tourists won 11-0).

In fact, Wales had to wait until 1999, before finally toppling the iron men from the veldt 26-19 at a half-filled Millennium Stadium still in the process of construction, just before the Rugby World Cup in June 1999, when an ecstatic crowd saw them avenge the humiliating 96-13 rout on tour in Pretoria the year before.

The only other success came following another tour to South Africa in June 2014, when Wales lost 38-16 and 31-30, only to bounce back in the autumn at Cardiff on November 29 that year to win 12-6.

Both camps went into Saturday's game against a background of supporters' disquiet at home – the hapless Springboks having lost seven of their previous 11 games, including a crushing defeat at the hands of arch rivals, New Zealand – and under-fire coach Alister Coetzee facing calls to be axed.

In what appeared to be a desperate attempt to avoid the inevitable, he fielded a mix'n'match selection of rawness and experience totalling just 260 caps, compared to Wales' 812 total.

Indeed, for ten minutes the gamble appeared to be paying off – with his makeshift team dominating the early exchanges, both in terms of possession and territory, winning a Welsh lineout and forcing a penalty at the scrum – to draw first blood and go three points up.

It was not the first time this autumn that Wales had fallen behind to an early sucker punch, but in this case, the South African lead was quickly snuffed out as the more experienced home team began to exert total control, and full back Leigh Halfpenny punished a spate of transgressions with the first of four penalties before the interval.

As the pressure told on increasingly desperate and inept opponents, their woes were compounded with a yellow card for a deliberate knock-on to break up a Welsh attack, which Halfpenny promptly punished with a fifth penalty helped by an upright.

When this was followed barely three minutes later by a gritty try for Scarlets hooker Ken Owens, which Halfpenny for once failed to convert, Wales seemed out of sight, with the scoreboard reading 20-6.

Outside half Dan Biggar, who had typically controlled things well for Wales, just failed to extend the lead further with a drop goal attempt – as replacements poured on for both sides – and it brought a belated fight-back by previously disconsolate South Africans, which yielded a converted try that suddenly edged them within touching distance at 20-13.

Alarm bells rang, but in the end, Tipuric it was who settled the nerves with a brilliant breakaway try, with just four minutes remaining.

Halfpenny applied the *coup de grace* to send the Welsh team to the dressing room with relieved smiles all round.

While the 12th successive defeat would not have improved Coetzee's prospects, in contrast, Howley and his fellow coaches can at least take some satisfaction from an autumn series that the history books (which do not record performance), will simply list as three wins out of four, including two prized southern hemisphere scalps.

Moreover, the Welsh camp know they have now been given a breathing space to work on mastering the 'new way' and prepare for a testing Six Nations – with the extra carrot of places being up for grabs on the British and Irish Lions' summer tour to New Zealand under Warren Gatland.

It could be the incentive they need to get up to speed with the rest of the pack!

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